Police Security Expo Show Guide – Page 49

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Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

MAY/JUNE 2025
VOLUME 41 ISSUE 3

The Growing Role of Drones as First Responders

Hands-on with SPRINGFIELD'S Echelon 4.0C

Beware of More Potential LAND MINES

Edged Weapon Defense: Lessons from the Past

How Handgun Safeties Help You Avoid Legal Trouble

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CONTENTS

MAY/JUNE 2025
Volume 41 • Issue 3
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DANGER MINES!
24

FOCUS: Law Enforcement Weaponry

30 Springfield Armory® Echelon™ 4.0C
Mike Boyle
For either uniform or plainclothes carry, the Springfield Armory Echelon 4.0C sits squarely in the winner's circle.

40 Staying Safe and Smart: How Modern Handgun Safeties Help You Avoid Legal Trouble
Larry J. Nichols
Officers and armed citizens must maintain their defensive firearms to factory standards, with all safety features intact, as they are liable for the weapon's condition in court.

44 Edged Weapon Defense: Lessons from the Past
Michael T. Rayburn
Present-day officers must relearn and strengthen their ability to recognize threats; understand the deadly potential of even small weapons; and accurately judge when the use of deadly force is appropriate.

FEATURES

24 Beware of More Potential Land Mines: 15 Principles for Reducing the Risk of Restraint-Related Deaths
John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., and Darrell L. Ross, Ph.D.

62 Emergency Response Reinvented: The Growing Role of Drones as First Responders
Eugene Nielsen
The primary advantage of the DFR model is rapid situational awareness, allowing officers to assess threats, make informed tactical decisions, and allocate resources more effectively – often before the first unit arrives on scene.

49 SPECIAL SECTION
Police Security Expo 2025 Official Trade Show Guide

POLICE SECURITY EXPO

COLUMNS

…and nothing but the truth 6
When Life Gives You Lemons, Ask for Salt and Tequila

Focus on Technology 10
Police Vehicle Equipment

Legal Update............................. 12
Gun Kits Which Readily Convert Into Working Firearms

The Wheels of Justice 16
EVs: The Breaking News

Product Highlight..................... 22
Law Enforcement Training Resources and Equipment

Busted!...................................... 74
Real Stories of Genuine Absurdity

Police Security Expo Show Guide – Page 49
P&SN Police and Security News
Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security
MAY/JUNE 2025 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 3
The Growing Role of Drones as First Responders
Hands-on with SPRINGFIELD'S Echelon 4.0C
Beware of More Potential LAND MINES
Edged Weapon Defense: Lessons from the Past
How Handgun Safeties Help You Avoid Legal Trouble
Innovative Automotive Solutions
Training Equipment and Resources

ON THE COVER

Drone as a First Responder (DFR) technology holds immense potential for law enforcement agencies, offering faster response times, enhanced situational awareness and improved officer safety.

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

When Life Gives You Lemons, Ask for Salt and Tequila

RAMESH NYBERG

There I was, swooping down a blue marked ski slope, making gentle, almost majestic turns through the perfect layer of powder. The satisfying, crunchy *swiisshh* of our skis was music to our ears as Sgt. Luis Alvarez, my traveling partner, paralleled my serpentine trek down the mountain. We came to a ledge where I executed one of my better 90 degree sharp stops. I turned to Lou and said, "This is the best investigative trip I've ever been on."

Being a detective in a large metropolitan police department's homicide bureau has its perks.

Two weeks earlier, Lou approached me in the office and asked me if I was available to travel to interview a couple of witnesses. It was not uncommon for homicide cops to travel. We were one of the few units which were afforded permission to go just about anywhere if we had important witnesses to talk to or extraditions to conduct. The department (rightly) felt that, with murder cases, they would open their otherwise stingy pocketbooks.

"Where are we going?" I asked him.

Lou, who knew I liked to ski, put his hands on my shoulders dramatically, "Telluride, Colorado," he said, unable to suppress his smile.

I should mention that, whenever we traveled, we always tried to build in an extra day for unforeseen circumstances; for example, if we couldn't find or see the witness on the first attempt, or if there was some other legal issue we had to wrangle.

Or, if there were some very fine ski slopes which required investigating.

The brass probably knew that we structured our travel this way – hell, *they* did it all of the time when they found a way to go to conferences, meetings and even out-of-town Super Bowls. They also knew we homicide cops did a job they had no interest in doing: late night callouts, handling decomposed bodies, dead children, beheadings, and making next of kin notifications. Maybe that's why the extra "R & R" was ignored when they signed our travel requests. During my regular homicide duty, from 1985 to 1992, I made four trips to Jamaica; two trips to Costa Rica; and several to Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Nashville, and a number of other spots. Our out-of-town ventures almost always required the assistance of the local detectives. These were the days before GPS, so I'll be damned if I was going to try to find an address in Birmingham with a AAA road atlas (anyone remember those?). So, we made some great connections in those other cities. The local cops were always helpful in finding addresses and, most certainly, suitable watering holes after the work was done. When I was assigned to our homicide cold case squad, we did the same for visiting detectives.

Because cold cases often involved witnesses who had moved away from South Florida, travel was even more frequent. Granted, most of the travel was to small towns to interview prison inmates, but we always managed to have a good time with the local cops. Most people have never been to – or even heard of – Hobbs, New Mexico; Gillette, Wyoming; or Yazoo City, Mississippi, but those little towns were typical of the places we visited. I can't complain because, in between those spots, I soaked up the sun and water in Montego Bay, Jamaica (during our "extra day"), skied in Telluride, and even did a wine tasting in Napa. That was a memorable one. When we discovered that a key witness lived in Napa, I wrote up the trip and, suddenly, the prosecutor on the case (they rarely accompanied us) decided they "had to" join us to take a statement from said witness and another detective decided that he had a lead in San Francisco and there were *four* of us going now. When we went to look for this female witness, we couldn't find her and we were fearful that our expensive trip might be for naught. We got the Napa Police to help us look for her and they promised they would call us if they found her. In the meantime, the other detective somehow finagled tickets to a San Francisco Giants game for all of us. We were on our way to the stadium when the Napa PD called and said they had our witness at the station. Oh, well – we couldn't complain much about missing the baseball game; we had spent the previous day in Napa visiting three different vineyards.

Our trips weren't all fun and games. My partner and I went to Panama in 1989, just a week after the arrest of General Manuel Noriega, to interview a freighter captain who was informing on the Colombian cartel in one of our homicides. We weren't allowed to carry our weapons there and, everywhere we went, the air was thick with anti-American sentiment and teeming with narcotics activity. After our first meeting with the freighter pilot, he called us at our

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

hotel and said, "The Colombians know you're in town and I think they followed me today. I wouldn't stay in the country if I were you." We were slated to go back home the next day, but I called American Airlines and asked them to put us on the next plane back to Miami.

There were other snafus and similar touchy situations in Jamaica, but all in all, I'm grateful to the department for giving us the leeway and the funds to pursue our cases more vigorously (as well as to enjoy that extra time we always managed to find). The nice "gigs" in law enforcement didn't always involve travel. I once volunteered to work the 1997 Super Bowl in Miami, mostly because the NFL was paying overtime for the 12 hour shift. I figured I would be outside directing traffic, but, instead, I was posted in the club level, where I watched celebrities and NFL luminaries dine on stone crab and champagne in their suites, and I moved from stairway to stairway so I always had a 50 yard line seat to view the game.

What inspired me to write about this topic was not to brag about all the places I've been. Instead, it was my astonishment over what might be the greatest law enforcement gig of all time: Last year, for the summer Olympics in France, the Los Angeles Police Department got approval to accompany their politicians and athletes there. In July of 2024, 32 reserve officers and a supervisor traveled to France to work under the supervision of the French National Police, mostly to provide a show of security presence and to provide protection for L.A. Mayor Karen Bass. (I mean, what are the Olympic Games without the L.A. mayor there, after all?) This extraordinary weeklong gig was funded entirely by the French government, with the exception of the officers' meals. The L.A. County Sheriff's Office was not to be outdone, so they sent their own contingent as well. Bravo, L.A., you might have outdone us all – though that Telluride trip was pretty sweet.

When we arrived in Telluride, Lou winked at me and said that the witness we had to talk to was not in Telluride at all, but one hundred miles to the north, but close enough, right? The brass had already signed on all the dotted lines. We got the work done – even waiting ten minutes for a herd of elk to cross the highway – and got some playing in, too. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years of police work. He lives in Miami and teaches criminal justice at a local high school. He also teaches regional law enforcement courses through Training Force, USA. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has written a new book, Badge, Tie and Gun: Life and Death Journeys of a Miami Detective, *which is available on Amazon in both Kindle eBook and paperback. You can find it by visiting* ***amazon.com/dp/B0CTQQKQTV***

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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

New 2025+ PIU Utility Cargo Partition

The new Gamber-Johnson **2025+ Ford Utility Cargo Partition**, featuring a diamond mesh center window, is expertly engineered for the Police Interceptor® Utility. This partition offers a secure and durable fit with a straightforward four-point mounting system which requires no drilling, making installation a simple, one-person job. The included GJ Electronics Tray seamlessly replaces the OEM tray and accommodates the upfitter module without the need for cutting or trimming. Designed with both functionality and visibility in mind, the diamond mesh window ensures clear sight lines through the rear window, while the contoured structure maximizes driver visibility. Additional filler panels surround the main partition to create a fully enclosed and secure cargo barrier, and the flat panel serves as a convenient mounting surface for fuse panels and other equipment.

gamberjohnson.com

New ALPR Technology

Safe Fleet®'s **Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)** technology is designed to support law enforcement operations by capturing and analyzing license plate data with a high degree of accuracy. The system enables officers to identify stolen vehicles and monitor potential criminal activity more effectively. It provides real-time data access and integrates with existing patrol infrastructure, offering a streamlined approach to field operations. The technology focuses on delivering accurate, reliable information to assist agencies in their daily enforcement and public safety tasks.

safefleet.net

POLICE VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Command-ready Convenience: New 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe Wide Body Console Box

The all-new **2025 Chevrolet Tahoe Wide Body Console Box** from Gamber-Johnson delivers durability, versatility and ease of use – making it the ultimate in-vehicle solution for public safety professionals. Engineered from heavy-gauge, black powder coated steel, this new console offers a sleek, contoured fit with zero drilling required. The wide body console maximizes real estate and storage efficiency with a secure push-button locking side pocket for valuables; a removable electronics mounting plate for fast installations; and a vehicle-specific layout which uses factory mounting points for a seamless upgrade.

Kit options include an integrated cupholder, an ergonomic printer armrest and customizable faceplate configurations to fit any mission-critical setup. With dual three hole side patterns for device mounting, three 12 volt plug knockouts, three USB power ports, and two mic mount locations, this console excels in connectivity and control.

gamberjohnson.com

Chevy Tahoe VSX Consoles for 2025

The new **C-VSX Series** from Havis for the 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV and SSV redefines the public safety console with a streamlined design. This new console transforms the vehicle cabin into an efficient, ergonomic workspace organizing control heads, cupholders and essential equipment for easy access.

The console features a heavy-duty steel floor mounting structure paired with a lightweight polycarbonate chassis, delivering strength, impact resistance and thermal performance – while being 30% lighter than traditional steel consoles. Its low profile design enhances safety and allows for easy side to side movement within the cabin.

An integrated mount for a Brother PocketJet printer is neatly stowed in the front of the console, freeing up space for additional equipment. With 18 inches of mounting space in a nine inch wide section, the console provides ample room. Additional front section features include a slot for driver's licenses or cards, a pen storage recess, a relocated USB media hub, a 12V lighter plug port, and an optional internal pole mount.

havis.com

Door Mount Weapon Storage Rack

The **Grab 'N Go Gun Rack** (currently patent pending) from Lund Industries is designed to be installed on the driver's side rear door and is specifically built to hold an AR-style rifle. It offers two electric lock options for added security. The rifle is positioned in a low profile manner, making it discreet and less visible from outside the vehicle. This mount is ideal for police SUVs, particularly those with a half or partial cell prisoner area on the passenger side. Additionally, it offers optional features such as a prisoner area light and a unique low profile weapon storage box which is perfect for storing a pistol or TASER® during court sessions. The locking box can also be configured to store evidence. The "GNG" systems are designed to fit various police SUVs and are tailored to specific vehicles.

lund-industries.com

2025+ Tahoe Contour Console with Locking Lid Storage

The new **2025+ Chevy Tahoe Contour Console** from Jotto Desk is designed to follow the dash contour, providing a sleek, integrated appearance while offering ample space for communication and lighting equipment. Engineered for efficiency, the console installs quickly and easily with no drilling required and includes 20 inches of faceplates for equipment mounting. Purpose-built for versatility, it supports Jotto's Mamba Mount; Computer Side Mount; and offers designated mounting locations for the Side Mounted Armrest, Rear Mounted Armrest, and Side Hinged Armrest. Standard features include lockable storage for secure item containment, a magnetic mic clip, a driver's side knockout for speaker installation, and a passenger-side fuse block complete with a cover and access panel.

jottopublicsafety.com

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Cargo Cab Pro

The **Cargo Cab Pro** from Pro-gard™ is a new storage system designed for agencies using 2021+ Ford® F-150® and Super Duty® trucks. Built from 14-gauge steel, it provides secure organization for duty gear and electronics. Dual shelves maximize storage, while multiple 1/2" HDPE platforms ensure stable electronics mounting. It integrates seamlessly with the P1300 Pro-Cell prisoner transport system or functions as a standalone unit. Compatible with Pro-gard's Under Seat Storage system, it also supports vertical Tri-Lock gun rack mounting. Rubber mats add stability, making it vital for optimized fleet organization and efficiency.

pro-gard.com

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Secure Cargo Storage Option

TUFLOC®'s **TufBox**™ all-steel security drawers provide a rugged and secure cargo storage option for police SUVs and sedans, including the 2025 Ford® Police Interceptor® and 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV. Made in the USA from welded 14-gauge steel, **TufBox** drawers come in multiple sizes to maximize the available storage space in each vehicle. The steel body and ball bearing drawer slides provide up to 200 pounds of lockable storage for essential gear, weapons and evidence. An optional base and **TufBox** storage bin provides additional storage space below the drawer and allows access to the spare tire. Officers can gain quick and easy access to the drawer using the stainless steel T-handle lock or the upgraded push-button combination lock.

tufloc.com

New Double Duty K9 Insert

Owens Products' new **2/3 – 1/3 Vehicle Insert** is designed specifically for police fleet vehicles, developed in close collaboration with law enforcement agencies to meet stringent standards and address common issues found in existing models. The new unit features a secure and comfortable space for K9 officers, occupying two thirds of the vehicle, while the remaining one third is designated for the transport of detained individuals. Constructed with durable materials, the **insert** creates a custodial environment for detainees while offering improved visibility for officers to monitor both the K9 and the individual in custody. Owens' new **insert** provides superior security, optimal ventilation and dependable functionality for any modern police fleet.

owensproducts.com

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New K-9 Solution

New from Setina Manufacturing is the combination **K-9 Unit and Cargo Storage Solution**. The **K-9 Ultimate Max containment unit** is designed with maximum space in mind for large working dogs, providing easy deployment from both the side and rear of the vehicle.

Coupled with Setina's popular rear cargo storage system, it provides the largest in class K-9 containment area, along with optimized storage space underneath for securing gear, firearms or electronics, ensuring quick and easy access. Constructed of lightweight, aircraft-grade aluminum, these systems offer universal SUV compatibility and easy, no-drill installation.

setina.com

……

Super Max System

Setina's **Super Max** is designed to provide optimal functionality for SUVs and trucks, combining both single prisoner transport capabilities with interior cargo storage. The **Super Max** is equipped with Setina's center-pull SmartBelt system to ensure safe and efficient single prisoner transport.

The **Super Max** is an ideal solution for single prisoner transport and secure interior storage. Its intelligent design maximizes space and enhances functionality, providing a reliable solution.

A polycarbonate steel divider wall ensures safe and secure transport with a single prisoner compartment, and the heavy-duty pull-out cargo drawer includes additional shelving for efficient storage. The single prisoner transport seat does require a front recessed partition (sold separately) for installation.

The **Super Max** is available for Ford®, Dodge® and GM models.

setina.com

LEGAL UPDATE

Gun Kits

Which Readily Convert Into Working Firearms

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

In *Bondi v. Vanderstok* (US 3/26/2025), the United States Supreme Court upheld the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) rule treating ghost guns as deadly firearms. Ghost guns are unserialized, untraceable firearms which can be easily put together in minutes from parts acquired without a background check.

The federal Gun Control Act (GCA), 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), defines a "firearm" to include "(A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device."

As explained by Justice Gorsuch in Vanderstok, we have recently "witnessed profound changes in how guns are made and sold. When Congress adopted the GCA in 1968, 'the milling equipment, materials needed and designs were far too expensive for individuals to make firearms practically or reliably on their own.' With the introduction of new technologies like 3D printing and reinforced polymers, that is no longer true. Today, companies are able to make and sell weapon parts kits that individuals can assemble into functional firearms in their own homes."

"These kits vary widely both in how complete they [are] and in how much work is required to finish them. At one end of the spectrum, a kit may lack essential parts and 'require substantial effort, specialized expertise, uncommon equipment, and a significant amount of time' before anyone can fire a shot. … At the other end, some kits 'contain all components necessary' for 'a complete pistol' and can be completed in perhaps half an hour using commonly available tools."

Sales of these kits have grown exponentially. While home hobbyists enjoy assembling them, so do criminals. "That is largely due to how the kits are sold. Some manufacturers and dealers take the position that weapon parts kits do not qualify as 'firearms' subject to the GCA. As a result, they say, they are free to sell their products without obtaining a federal license, conducting background checks, maintaining sales records, or marking components with serial numbers." This has resulted in police departments around the nation being confronted with an explosion of crimes involving these "ghost guns."

In 2022, the ATF adopted a new rule designed to combat the proliferation of ghost guns. One provision addresses weapon parts kits which are "designed to or may readily be completed, assembled, restored, or otherwise converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive." Another relevant aspect of the agency's new rule concerns a "key building block of almost any firearm: its frame or receiver." Under subsection (B) of §921(a)(3), "the frame or receiver of any such weapon" covered by subsection (A) is itself treated as a "firearm." Effectively, "that means a frame or receiver is, even when sold separately, subject to the Act's requirements."

In its 2022 rule, the ATF sought to expand this definition. Now, the agency said, a "frame or receiver" subject to subsection (B) of §921(a)(3), should be understood to encompass as well "a partially complete, disassembled or nonfunctional frame or receiver, including a frame or receiver parts kit, that is designed to or may readily be complet-

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Is Your Fleet Elite?

Continued from page 12

A Polymer80 "Buy Build Shoot" kit

A finished GLOCK® variant semiautomatic pistol built from the kit

ed, assembled, restored, or otherwise converted to function as a frame or receiver." See 27 C.F.R. §478.12(c).

To decide this case, the court considered a Polymer80's "Buy Build Shoot" kit which comes with all of the necessary components to build a GLOCK® variant semiautomatic pistol. "And it is so easy to assemble that, in an ATF test, an individual who had never before encountered the kit was able to produce a gun from it in 21 minutes using only 'common' tools and instructions found in publicly available YouTube videos."

The Supreme Court held that the Gun Control act "embraces, and thus permits ATF to regulate, some weapon parts kits and unfinished frames or receivers. Accordingly, the regulation, 27 C.F.R. § 478.11 is valid under 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3)(A) as the term "weapon" includes some unfinished instruments of combat which could be readily converted into a working firearm. Moreover, 27 C.F.R. § 478.12(c) is not inconsistent with 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3)(B) as that statute permits the ATF to regulate at least some partially complete frames or receivers. **P&SN**

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey, and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is a leading author for Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement.

Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

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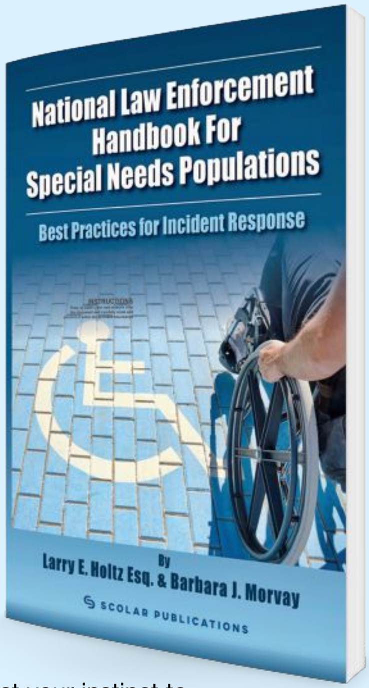
Responding to Incidents Involving Persons with Special Needs

Larry E. Holtz and Barbara J. Morvay


National Law Enforcement Handbook For Special Needs Populations
Best Practices for Incident Response
By
Larry E. Holtz Esq. & Barbara J. Morvay
SCOLAR PUBLICATIONS

At 10:00 p.m., you are dispatched to an "unknown trouble" scene. Upon arrival, you observe an individual huddled on the ground. The individual is exhibiting unusual behavior. He is rocking back and forth and appears to be singing to himself. As you approach to determine his condition, the rocking behavior increases. You ask, "Are you hurt?" The individual does not respond to your question. You ask again, "Are you hurt?" As you get closer, the individual's behavior intensifies; he begins to hit himself in the chest with his hand. What do you do? How do you handle the situation? The best advice in this circumstance is to step back and observe. Does the intensity of the behavior lessen? If it does, you established a comfortable space for the individual and you may deal with him without harm.

Advising you to step back may go against your instinct to approach and intervene. Do not try to stop the behavior; this may escalate the individual's self-stimulating behavior. For certain individuals with autism, or who are disabled and have special needs, behavior such as this may be a self-soothing and calming mechanism. At this point, responding officers should limit physical contact because such individuals cannot cope with touching. This individual has already demonstrated increased agitation when you got too close. Speak to him in a calm voice; don't talk loud or yell. At this point, the scene may be under control. Explain that you are there to help.

Understanding that a person with special needs may not be able to respond appropriately is essential. In an intense law enforcement incident or in an encounter with a fire fighter, such an individual may not understand what is happening. They may not be able to effectively communicate and may appear to be more of a threat because of their noncompliance which may be "nonwillful." As "suspects," such individuals may not understand commands or instructions. They may be overwhelmed, confused or fearful. They may nod their head in a yes or no manner; however, this may not indicate a consistent yes or no response. They may have difficulty describing facts or details and will often demonstrate confusion. The individual could have a cognitive or verbal impairment. Here, it is important to remember that noncompliance is not the basis for violence.

Cognitive or verbal impairment is not visible. Persons with autism, communication disorders, sensory or processing disorders are more difficult to deal with from a law enforcement perspective, particularly due to a lack of criminal culpability. In short, they have no *mens rea* (the intention or knowledge of wrongdoing which constitutes part of a crime). An officer faced with this situation in the field needs to first secure the individual for his safety and the safety of the officer and others nearby. In this regard, the initial encounter with the person is the most critical time period. Here, the ability to de-escalate the encounter is of utmost importance and additional training to assist officers in dealing with the disabled in this regard is essential. If the officer is able to effectively respond to and communicate with the individual, the situation may be safely de-escalated.

While dealing with disabled and special needs children is not easy, dealing with adults with special needs or who are disabled is much more challenging. Knowing how to recognize someone with special needs or disabilities is important. Knowing how to effectively and safely respond in the situation is critical. How is this done? The answer is training.

Presently, there are new legislative requirements and administrative initiatives for incidents involving persons with special needs which have been developed and mandated in a majority of states. As a result, this subject has gained new focus and recognition for law enforcement and other first responders across the country.

A new book, the *National Law Enforcement Handbook for Special Needs Populations,* by Holtz and Morvay, provides essential educational materials and a thorough study guide for all levels of professionals, from law enforcement, fire fighters and other first responders, to prosecutors, municipal attorneys, to academy recruits and college students. It examines the appropriate responses for incidents involving persons with special needs. It includes a focused examination of a variety of disabilities and other special needs, such as physical, mental and psychological, as well as other factors which may require a specialized response. From autism to Alzheimer's and dementia, mental illness to drug addiction, deaf and hearing impaired to blind and visually impaired, learning disabilities, orthopedic impairments, and breathing issues, it's all covered.

This new book is available on Amazon at **https://tinyurl.com/yy5vs35b** or at Barnes & Noble at **https://tinyurl.com/5xbfkf5w**

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

EVs:
THE BREAKING NEWS

Here we go again.

SERGEANT JAMES POST

STOP
CARE ABOUT AMERICA? DON'T BUY A MAGAT-MOBILE!
F ELON
DON'T BUY A FAKE TRUCK FROM A REAL NAZI
TESLA FUNDS FASCISM

Photo courtesy of Chad Davis: https://tinyurl.com/3e4stnt4

America's well funded militants (domestic terrorists) have recently moved onto their latest cause/protest of the day – Elon Musk and Tesla. And, this impacts every hero wearing a badge in America as these criminals are now attacking Tesla vehicles and dealerships across the country with guns, Molotov cocktails, rattle cans, and keys. Some unfortunate Tesla owners have been harassed, threatened and attacked in their own vehicles, too.

I've often wondered how they organize these mobs so fast, but, if you've ever seen the fictional The Manchurian Candidate, you know the answer. Somewhere in the world, some unknown puppet master blows a whistle on the antisocial media and they march zombie-like, lockstep into action. The only question they get asked is, "Do you prefer cash, check or direct deposit?"

Motivation for these criminals can be traced to a couple of reasons, but, primarily, it is their hatred of Donald Trump and his appointment of billionaire Elon Musk to head the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Regardless of your politics, most savvy Americans agree that, for years, there has been an unbelievable waste of taxpayers' money by some of the DC lawmakers as they appease their constituents by approving "special projects." It was anticipated (and hoped) that Musk and his team of "super Scrooges" will continue to ferret out and eliminate the waste and save us billion$, while reducing our national debt at the same time. However, even though the billionaire tech's official role as a special government employee ends on May 30, the roughly 100 volunteers of that organization will continue on for at least another year and possibly continuing through 2029.

Elon Musk

In case you've forgotten (or never knew), following is a brief history of Elon Musk and the Tesla. Tesla Motors was founded by Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning in 2003 to build Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs). The name, Tesla, was chosen as a tribute to Nikola Tesla, a genius inventor who once worked for Thomas Edison until a falling out over patents. Tesla was deprived of the fame and fortune he deserved and was nearly lost to history had it not been for the electric car which now bears his name.

With an investment of $6.35 million (from his sale of PayPal® to eBay for $175.8 million), Musk became a major investor and partner in Tesla in 2004. Musk became the primary shareholder and CEO of the company in 2008. He resigned as CEO in 2020 to run his other companies such as SpaceX and Starlink, while retaining his majority stock holdings in Tesla.

The Cybertruck

The first Tesla sedan, the Model S, was released in 2012, with subsequent models (the 3 and Y) released in 2015, 2017 and 2020. As the new models were hitting the streets, the automotive world became aware of rumors of a new "bulletproof" supertruck which Musk was developing. Named the Cybertruck, he promoted it on all of the major networks and it was formally introduced in November 2019 in Los Angeles to the media and the public. Following four years of minor design changes and engineering tweaks, it was released in November 2023.

Tesla's futuristic (RWD or AWD) truck is powered by one, two or three electric motors (mounted in the front, rear or in combination) which can generate up to 854 hp and can accelerate from 0-60 mph in 2.6 seconds and 0-100 mph in 2.7 seconds. It is a 4DR crew cab pickup with EPA estimate ranges (varying by model) of 250 to 340 miles and top speeds of 112 mph to 130 mph. An optional "Range Extender" can be added to boost the range by another 120 to 130 miles. The truck has a self-leveling suspension which adjusts the ground clearance from 12 to 17 inches and has optional four-wheel steering and seats five adults.

In 2023, Musk announced that the Cybertruck would be sold exclusively in North America only and, by October 2024, industry experts estimated 27,185 Cybertrucks had been sold.

The original Tesla factory was in Palo Alto, CA, but, due to conflicts with California laws and politics, Musk moved the Tesla factory to Austin, TX, in 2021. It is located on 2,500 acres of land he owns and now employs 22,700 workers who manufacture sedans and Cybertrucks.

Teslas on Patrol

Tesla sedans have been tested and evaluated by US police departments since their inception as departments desperately searched for 4DR sedans to replace the popular Ford® CVPI (final year 2011) and powerful HEMI® Dodge Charger (final year 2024). Tesla evaluations have had mixed results, but some departments purchased the cars after testing them and have add-

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Continued from page 16

The Menlo Park (CA) Police Department utilizes this Tesla Model 3 as an official patrol vehicle.
(Photo courtesy of TaurusEmerald)

ed them to their fleets; however, most are used for detectives and administrative details and not marked patrol.

Departments with Teslas on the streets include Bargersville, IN, who began evaluating them in 2019 and have now added 12 more Model 3s. Based on Bargersville's results, the Daleville, IN, PD has ordered their first Tesla. Other PDs using Teslas include W. Lafayette, IN, and the Cobb County, GA, Sheriff's Department.

The only department we are aware of which has purchased a Cybertruck for their fleet is Irvine, CA, but it was not cheap. Irvine reportedly shelled out $132,363 for the truck and added another $20,811 for emergency equipment, lighting and upfitting.

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2024 EV Sales

Last year was a record year for EV sales domestically, with Tesla comfortably residing in first place. There are several reasons for the EV sales growth, primarily the optimistic, positive feelings the majority of Americans feel following the results of the last presidential election. Manufacturers have done their part as well by building safer, more reliable EVs and hybrids and adding new models with longer life batteries. New incentives (such as including chargers with new car sales) and discounts have helped spike sales, too.

In October 2024, GM set a new EV sales record of 370,000 units sold since 2016, the majority being sold between 2022 and 2024. They were second in US sales in Q3 2024 following Tesla; Hyundai was third; Ford was fourth; and Honda and Acura fifth. In January, new electric sales reached 102,243 units, up 30% over last year and it was the tenth consecutive month with EV sales over 100,000 units. The five top selling models were the Tesla Model Y, the Tesla Model S, the VW Model ID 4, the Tesla Cybertruck, and the Honda Prologue, making up 54% of total sales.

A recent study of EV registrations (1000 residents per capita) ranked states with EVs on the road. As you would expect, California, with their population and electric incentives, had the most EVs on the road, followed by (in this order): Washington, Hawaii, Oregon, Colorado, and Nevada. The states with the fewest registrations per-capita were South Dakota; Louisiana; West Virginia; North Dakota; and the state with the lowest number of EVs in the US was Mississippi.

Reasons given for the positive bump up in sales include more choices, better incentives, affordability, and increased dealer supplies. As 2024 ended, the average price for new EVs was $55,614, a 1.4% decrease over last year while manufacturers with the highest incentives were Volkswagen, Subaru, Kia, and Nissan.

However, the experts are predicting the EV bubble (popularity) will burst in 2025 like a water balloon filled with unleaded. The reasons given are many, including plans to end federal tax credits for new purchases and leases and tariffs on EV building countries.

Used EV Sales

Used EV sales increased in 2024 by 3.5%, reaching 26,933 units, a market share of 1.8%. The five top-selling "pre-owned" brands were Tesla, Chevrolet, Mercedes, Ford, and Nissan. The average listing price for used EVs was $37,476, a 5.1% decrease from last year. Ten manufacturers (Porsche, Toyota, Chevrolet, Jaguar, Mazda, Volvo, Mini, Lexus, Nissan, and Subaru) had listing prices at, or below, their company's Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, with 39.4% priced under $25,000.

Hard Times Ahead?

Tesla is no doubt expressing disappointment as their stock fell 25% in America and they recorded a 45% drop in European sales in January. The devastating Los Angeles wildfires may have also affected Tesla's sales. Efforts to clean up the impacted areas have been complicated by burned out electric and hybrid vehicles and home battery storage systems. Lithium batteries from Tesla and other manufacturers have added to the mix of toxic materials which require specialized removal. The LA wildfires destroyed thousands of homes and businesses in addition to the tragic human loss. The LA County Health Department described the risks to human health and the environment as "substantial" when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of.

The current attacks of vandalism against Tesla vehicles in nearly all 50 states is also problematic for the company because potential buyers might be scared away to other companies' products.

And, as if Musk and company didn't have enough problems, the Chinese automaker BYD (Build Your Dreams) is shipping them overseas and oversold Tesla by $100 billion last year. BYD, now ranked as the third largest auto manufacturer in the world, builds EVs, electric trucks and motorcycles, forklifts, and more, and their growth is nothing short of amazing…49th in the world in 2019, 9th in the world in 2023 and now 3rd! The only time this kind of growth would be welcome is if you were raising a teenager with NFL aspirations!

Laws, Bills, Regs, Tariffs, and Waivers for EVs

There are big changes coming down the interstate for EV car and truck owners straight from the laptops of several agencies in the new administration. These agencies include the Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Highway Trust Fund, National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Federal Highway Administration and the highlights follow.

This past October, the Irvine (CA) Police Department introduced the nation's first Tesla Cybertruck in law enforcement. The vehicle is being used to support their Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program and enhance community outreach initiatives. *(Photos courtesy of Irvine PD)*

Chargers

The FHWA has halted Biden's $7.5 million charger funding project to install tens of thousands of EV chargers along highways and at rest stops across the country to alleviate consumers' "range anxiety" and to sell more EVs. A recent study revealed there are 5.4 million electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids currently registered in America, but only 68,000 public and private Level 3 (fastest) and Level 2 charging stations in America. Each charger has one or more individual ports, for a total of around 205,000 ports to *get close to six million EVs over the hills and through the woods.*

With surveys, permits, land acquisitions, and state and local administrations involved, the program was one of the many ways the public was being pushed into buying EVs and became a quagmire, so it was scrubbed.

And from the Left Coast

The EPA is ready to challenge California's restrictive emissions rules by revoking their EPA waivers. Since 1967 (Under their Clean Air Act), California has been allowed to adopt emission requirements independent (and stricter) than the EPA's regulations. Previous bills have been introduced in the past, but failed to pass. The American Trucking Association has praised, and supports, this new move.

Buy the Ride You Want

President Trump ordered his administration to consider eliminating subsidies and policies which boost consumer demand for EV purchases while permitting states to limit sales of ICE vehicles.

The administration also revoked a 2021 executive order which mandated half of all new vehicles sold in the US be electric by 2030 and eliminated the federal tax credit of $7,500 for every EV purchase.

That's about it for your latest installment of "The Wheels of Justice" which ends today's "rant and reveal." **P&SN**

Sergeant Post always appreciates your opinions, comments and suggestions. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net

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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

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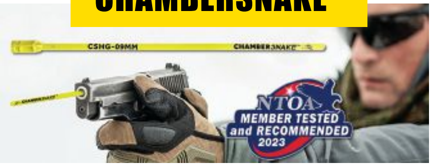


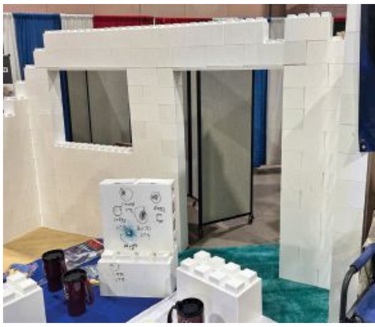
The **ChamberSnake** was invented by a retired police firearms instructor who grew tired of recruits pointing (possibly) loaded handguns in his class. Conducting safety checks can be time-consuming. However, utilizing the ChamberSnake allows for immediate visual confirmation that a weapon is safe, enhancing both range safety and the efficiency of training sessions.

Constructed from durable nylon 6/6 plastic, this chamber blocker features a prominent "electric yellow" strip which extends from the muzzle, providing immediate visual confirmation of the firearm's unloaded and safe status. It's also flexible enough to bend so the weapon can be stored in its case. Compared to other Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs), **ChamberSnake** allows for dry-firing without disengagement and eliminates the risk of accidental dislodgement during handling. It is available in most calibers and configurations for handguns, rifles and shotguns.

chambersnake.com

Law Enforcement Training Resources and Equipment

THE GUN SHOP



Temporary and adaptable shoothouse configurations for Reality-Based Training using less-lethal marking ammunition – such as Force on Force™, Simunition®, or similar products – can be efficiently created using a combination of two versatile components.

EverBlocks are large, interlocking plastic blocks which resemble popular hobbyist construction toys, but are manufactured in full (12" wide by 6" high) and half (6" wide by 6" high) sizes. These blocks can be rapidly assembled into wall-like structures similar to cinder block construction. Lightweight yet durable, **EverBlocks** can be easily handled by one or two people, allowing for the quick creation, breakdown, or reconfiguration of even complex training environments. Their robust design enables them to withstand repeated impacts from less-lethal marking ammunition.

Accordion Walls offer a flexible solution for dividing large open spaces into simulated interior environments. Constructed from lightweight, impact-resistant fabric, these walls are hinged every three feet and mounted on wheels, allowing a single person to effortlessly adjust them into a wide variety of room layouts. Their mobility and adaptability make them ideal for quickly reconfiguring training spaces to meet evolving training objectives.

policeammo.com

NRA EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE® PROGRAM

Eddie Eagle
AND THE
WING TEAM

The **Eddie Eagle GunSafe** program is a gun accident prevention program which, for over 30 years, has helped keep kids safe. The program was developed by a task force made up of educators, school administrators, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists, law enforcement officials, and National Rifle Association firearm safety experts. It began in 1988 with one mission: teach children four simple, easy to remember steps so they know what to do if they ever come across a gun. In 2015, the NRA introduced a revitalized new Eddie and added some friends – his Wing Team.

The program makes no value judgments about firearms; no firearms are ever used; and it covers an important topic which needs to be addressed with kids. Like swimming pools, electrical outlets and lighters, firearms are simply treated as a part of everyday life. With firearms found in about half of all American households, it's a stance which makes sense.

eddieeagle.nra.org

Refuse
To Be A Victim.

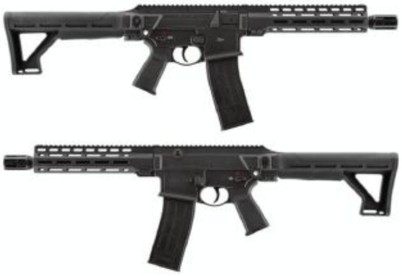
NRA REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM® PROGRAM

Refuse To Be A Victim is a nationally recognized crime prevention and personal safety program developed by the National Rifle Association in response to growing public demand. Since 1993, it has empowered individuals across all 50 states with practical tools to enhance personal safety and prevent criminal confrontation. Endorsed by law enforcement nationwide, the program emphasizes the importance of developing a safety plan before it's needed.

Through a single seminar, participants learn easy to understand strategies to increase awareness and reduce vulnerability. Topics include the psychology of criminal predators, home and cyber security, automobile and travel safety, personal and technological security, and self-defense options.

With over 7,000 certified instructors, **Refuse To Be A Victim** offers seminars tailored for diverse groups, from high school and college students to senior citizens and individuals with physical disabilities. The program equips attendees with common-sense safety strategies which can be integrated into everyday life, encouraging a proactive mindset toward personal security.

rtbav.nra.org



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T4E is introducing the **T4E TC 68 Caliber Rifle** – an M4-style training tool built for versatility, performance and customization. Designed for professional and scenario-based training, the **TC 68** adapts to various environments with three power source options: 88g CO_2, dual 12g CO_2 (with adaptor) and an aftermarket HPA tank (with adaptor and stock).

Its adjustable velocity ranges from 240 FPS for standard play to 480 FPS for high-intensity training. The rifle is magfed with a 20 round magazine compatible with directional finned ammo and includes a hopper adapter for greater capacity. The M-LOK® rail system supports customization with optics, foregrips and lasers.

Additional features include a standard AR-style ergonomic grip for comfort during extended use and an Autococker threaded removable barrel, allowing for easy upgrades in barrel length and bore size. The **TC 68** delivers a customizable training experience in a sleek, tactical design.

t4eguns.com

MILO

Marking a major advancement in law enforcement training, MILO has integrated generative AI-powered conversational capabilities into its MILO Virtual Reality (VR) and MILO Range Focus3D projection-based systems. This cutting-edge tech transforms traditional de-escalation and interview training by enabling dynamic, real-time dialogue with AI-driven characters – available in both English and Spanish – offering police officers an unparalleled training experience.

Breaking Free from Prerecorded Scenarios

For decades, police training simulations have relied only on branching scenarios – prerecorded or computer-generated sequences which required trainers to manually guide conversations through multiple-choice pathways. While effective, these systems were inherently limited by pre-scripted responses and fixed decision trees. Utilizing **MILO AI**, trainees now can engage in natural, free-flowing conversations with AI-controlled characters which respond contextually in real-time. This advancement elevates de-escalation training, witness interviews and suspect interactions by making them more fluid, immersive and adaptable.

Controlled, Customizable and Secure Training Environments

One of the most compelling aspects of **MILO AI** is the level of control it provides trainers. The system allows for:

- **Chat Customization:** Trainers can design conversations with guardrails which ensure AI-generated responses remain within appropriate parameters.
- **Adaptive Memory:** The AI retains a short-term recall of interactions, ensuring that discussions flow logically.
- **Trainer-Directed Branching:** Instructors can influence mood shifts or alter the information available to trainees, simulating realistic shifts in behavior and cooperation.

Each training session can be fully recorded, with audio available for review through proprietary After-Action Review (AAR) tools. This capability enhances post training debriefs, allowing officers to analyze and reflect on their performance, refine communication strategies and improve decision-making.

Security without Compromise

Some law enforcement agencies face strict IT security requirements which limit the use of cloud-based or Internet-dependent AI tools, requiring a secure and self-contained system. MILO AI operates entirely on local hardware, ensuring that all conversations and training data remain within the facility unless exported by the user. No Internet connection is required and there are no ongoing subscription fees – an approach which prioritizes security, accessibility and long-term affordability.

A New Level of Immersion

The integration of generative AI within MILO VR allows officers to move freely within scenarios, interacting with multiple NPCs (Non-Playable Characters) based on the evolving situation. An officer can approach and look at different NPCs in the scenario and chat with them separately if they choose. Whether interviewing a witness, negotiating with a distressed individual, or questioning a suspect, officers can engage with distinct AI-driven characters who respond with unique, realistic dialogue.

Additionally, MILO's voice cloning technology ensures that NPCs have an infinite variety of voices, with synchronized lip movements enhancing immersion and realism.

Expanding Multi-trainee Capabilities

MILO is launching a multi-trainee VR system which supports AI-driven conversations, allowing multiple officers to engage in scenario-based training simultaneously. This expansion will also feature instructor controlled avatars for role-playing, expanding the variety and realism of training scenarios in a controlled environment.

MILO's newest tech improves police training by letting officers practice talking with AI characters in real time, making the experience more realistic and effective than traditional methods.

Tomorrow's Training – Today

MILO AI represents a breakthrough in law enforcement training, blending cutting-edge technology with proven, practical, scenario-based learning. By leveraging AI-driven conversations, MILO enables officers to refine their communication skills, enhance their ability to de-escalate volatile situations, and sharpen investigative techniques – all within a secure, flexible and highly immersive environment.

milovr.com

Beware of More Potential Land Mines:

15 Principles for Reducing the Risk of Restraint-Related Deaths

JOHN G. PETERS, JR., PH.D., AND DARRELL L. ROSS, PH.D.

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DANGER MINES!

In September of last year, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) unveiled its report, 15 Principles for Reducing the Risk of Restraint-Related Deaths, sparking critical discussions within the law enforcement community. While PERF's standing as a trusted advocacy organization lends weight to its recommendations, many of these principles demand scrutiny before adoption. As seen with the International Association of Chiefs of Police's Model Policy on electronic control weapons – highlighted in Police and Security News just last year – such guidance can contain hidden "land mines." Some of PERF's principles offer practical benefits, but others raise concerns about catering to anti-police narratives.

PERF 15 Restraint-Related Death Principles

If you have not read the 2024 PERF report, here are the 15 principles which PERF Executive Director Chuck Wexler stated, "Nearly all guidance in this report can be applied to any situation" (p. 1). Few things can truly be said to apply universally to "any situation," so it's ultimately up to you, the reader, to evaluate the validity of this claim. Many of the following principles, while not controversial, cannot be implemented in "any situation" and that requires critical reading of the explanations and recommendations following each principle.

1. Identify Warning Signs of a Medical-Behavioral Emergency.
2. Plan and Develop Protocols for a Coordinated Medical-Behavioral Emergency Response.
3. ICAP Principles Apply to Medical-Behavioral Emergencies.
4. De-escalate Wherever Possible, but at a Minimum – Don't Escalate.
5. Evaluate the Need to Immediately Restrain.
6. Multiple Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) Applications May Increase the Risks Associated with Restraint.
7. A Supervisor or Other Leader Needs to Take Charge.
8. Designate a Patient Safety Officer.
9. Prone Restraint Carries Potential Risks and Should be Limited.
10. Not Following Directions Does Not Always Mean Willful Non-Compliance.
11. The Goal is Control, NOT Complete Immobilization.
12. The Ability to Speak Does Not Mean a Person Can Breathe.
13. On-scene Coordination and Collaboration Between EMS and Law Enforcement is Crucial During MBEs.
14. Keep Emotions in Check and Be Ready to Step Up and Step In.
15. Commit to Learning from Every Incident. (pp. 3-21; policeforum.org).

Redirecting an actively resistive person into the prone position for control and likely restraint happens daily and seldom is there a serious injury or an even more rare fatal outcome. This is supported by 23 published scientific clinical studies and four epidemiologic (field) studies. These studies have concluded there is no inherent risk of danger to the subject in the prone restraint position. Admittedly, there is no totally risk-free force option, but the likelihood of a subject dying in the prone restraint position is statistically rare and most likely for reasons beyond the officer's control.

We commend PERF for tackling the critical issue of non-firearm officer-associated deaths. However, before adopting its proposed principles, agency leaders, managers and trainers should carefully evaluate their potential impact. While space constraints prevent a comprehensive analysis, this article highlights key concerns which must be addressed to ensure these recommendations do not inadvertently lead to harmful changes in policy and training.

Scientific Studies vs. Theory

PERF's failure to integrate published scientific findings into its 15 recommendations is contrary to PERF's 2021 prior recommendation of using science to inform decision-making (What Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Need to Know about Collecting and Analyzing Use-of-Force Data; policeforum.org). The published scientific literature on prone restraint is not referenced in the most recent PERF report. Of the 32 footnotes analyzed, only one theoretical case study was cited (fn. 21) along with many Associated Press articles. Case studies do not test hypotheses and the cited case study assessed two autopsy deaths which is an unreliable unit of analysis.

The collective scientific literature about redirecting an active-

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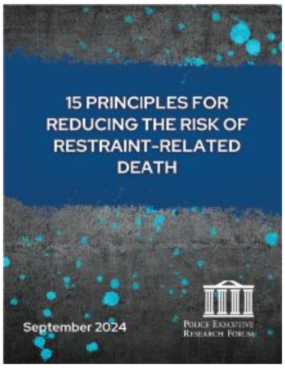
Continued from page 24



15 PRINCIPLES FOR
REDUCING THE RISK OF
RESTRAINT-RELATED
DEATH

September 2024

Police Executive
Research Forum

We applaud PERF for addressing the vital issue of officer-associated fatalities; however, agency leaders, managers and trainers should rigorously assess the potential consequences before embracing these proposed principles.

(Image: Police Executive Research Forum)

ly resisting/combative subject into the prone and restrained position finds no evidence of clinically significant effects on cardiac output, ventilation, hypoxia, or hypercarbia. Approximately ten percent of people sleep on their stomachs with no adverse effects and prone positioning has been shown to improve patient breathing during some medical surgeries and treatments.

The four epidemiological field research studies on prone positioning collectively showed that no one died in that position and that serious injuries were rare. Various force options were applied including a conducted energy weapon. Most of the subjects exhibited symptoms associated with illicit drugs and/or mental illness. Collectively, the scientific research shows the prone restrained position is a safe and often preferred position for controlling and restraining actively resisting/combative individuals and did not pose a deleterious risk of harm to them.

The PERF report introduces the concept of Prone Restraint Cardiac Arrest as a potential explanation for sudden deaths among restrained individuals. While this theory has not been scientifically validated, its proponent, Alon Steinberg, M.D., suggests that individuals who struggle with officers – either before being taken to the ground or during and after restraint – may experience cardiac arrest. This hypothesis, though unproven, challenges the notion of "positional asphyxia" and aligns with common sense, as underlying cardiac issues may go unnoticed by both the individual and the officer(s) involved. However, Dr. Steinberg's assertion that "the best way to avoid cardiac arrest is to remove individuals from prone restraint as soon as possible" warrants scrutiny. Cardiac arrest can occur regardless of body position – whether standing, running, lying supine, or sitting. Notably, the PERF report provides no scientific evidence to substantiate this specific claim.

De-escalation

PERF Principles 4 and 5 recommend "don't escalate" and "delay restraint until Emergency Medical Services" (EMS) arrive. In contrast, we suggest caution, as this could potentially compromise the officer's safety. De-escalation is a commendable intervention strategy to attempt, but it usually takes two individuals for it to work (subject and officer). Frequently, officers cannot script their responses and often must decide to use a force option based on the perceived behaviors, noncompliance and the resistance of the subject. The report conveys

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An officer may need to act immediately to protect him-/herself, others and the subject, rather than continue with crisis intervention strategies.

mixed messages to the reader: that the incidents are high risk critical incidents; subjects may not comply with directions and may exhibit erratic/irrational behaviors, as well as paranoia and delusional behaviors, and be severely agitated; to wait on EMS; use restraint for persons at imminent risk of self-harm or harm to others and if the subject is at significant risk of flight (which lacks description).

Principle 5 of the PERF report says, "If a person is reasonably contained . . ." but failed to define or clarify what "reasonably contained" means. Restricting an officer's response to these factors fails to consider the totality of the circumstances an officer may confront which may simply involve a dangerous person without medical issues. It also ignores the Fourth Amendment's standard of objective reasonableness established in Graham v. Connor (1989), its progeny, and intervening based on the perception of the officers on scene. These incidents are dynamic, unpredictable and contain innumerable variables. An officer may not have the luxury of continuing with crisis intervention strategies and may have to immediately respond to protect him/herself and others, as well as control and protect the subject. The application of de-escalation strategies is not a substitute for the safety of the involved officer(s).

Small Agencies Reign

Per the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), a majority of law enforcement agencies employ about ten officers. It is common for only one or two officers to be assigned patrol duties per shift and if EMS response time is slowed due to a priority call, the officer may not have time to perform a full assessment, continue with de-escalation techniques or await EMS. Waiting for backup may not be possible and EMS may not be forthcoming particularly in smaller communities. Recommending that an officer delay a response or restrict the use of certain force options places the officer at risk and usurps the ability of the officer's decision-making based on his/her perception and the totality of circumstances.

Limit ECW Applications

It is clear from reading the PERF report that the TASER® 10 was not considered in the recommendation of Principle 6: "Multiple Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) Applications May Increase the Risks Associated with Restraint." While no one recommends multiple ECW applications without reasonable justification, the PERF report appears to have ignored the scientific ECW study findings which show that using an ECW with limited, re-

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Continued from page 27

peated applications did not produce an adverse impact on the subject which is consistent with other controlled laboratory studies. ECWs do not work on everyone and, therefore, more than one application may be required. The TASER 10 has multiple probes which can be applied to a person until the best connection is identified by the device. The number of ECW applications must be communicated to EMS and/or other medical responders.

No Supervisor

PERF Principle 7 calls for a supervisor or other leader to take charge. What if no one is available to “take charge”? Again, the PERF report appears to ignore the many smaller agencies which may not have a supervisor on duty or, in some larger agencies, this, too, may be impracticable. If a supervisor is unavailable or is across town or the county, the default contact is the chief of police or the sheriff. While noteworthy, this recommendation may be problematic to implement for many agencies.

What about Psychological or Simply Dangerous Suspects?

Medical-Behavioral Emergencies (MBE) are a primary focus of the PERF report which Wexler describes as “generally involv[ing] a person experiencing a medical issue (often drug-induced or drug-enhanced) that presents to police as a behavioral issue” (p.2). Per this definition of MBE, the behavioral signs fail to include those associated with mental illness, lack of oxygen, people who are simply aggressive and will fight the police to escape, and do not include the numerous mortality enhancers associated with a non-firearm, arrest-related deaths. Very few officers are medically trained beyond first aid and are not trained psychologists or psychiatrists. There are plenty of violent encounters when the violator does not have medical issues.

Force Options

Other than cautioning the misuse of an ECW, there are no report recommendations about selecting force options, including control techniques and force devices; the application of restraints; the use of a restraint chair; the use of spit restraint devices; the use of aerosols; or using other force equipment. While the recommendation to monitor a restrained person is appropriate, the report does not direct officers on how or what to monitor for, or direct officers to be prepared to provide medical assistance as warranted. There is no recommendation that the involved officers submit an incident report or that involved officers or a supervisor follow clearly established law, agency policy and their training.

Disputable Best Practices

Referring to the PERF 15 principles as “best practices,” Wexler confuses the reader by saying they “can be employed during nearly any incident, not only MBEs” (p.2). This contradicts his earlier claim that “Nearly all guidance in this report can be applied to ANY situation” [emphasis added] (p.1). Regardless, the principles do not meet the criteria of “best practices.”

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According to Kerzner (2013), “[a] best practice begins with an idea that there is a technique, process, method or activity that is more effective at delivering a desired outcome than any other approach and with fewer problems and unforeseen complications.” A “best practice” implies there is one and only one way of accomplishing a task; that an ideal has been achieved; and that, in this case, law enforcement officers and EMS providers have been performing some activities incorrectly.

It is strongly recommended to use the terms “proven” or “evidence-based” practices. Per Garfield (2017), “Proven practices are methods that have been demonstrated to be effective and lend themselves to replication to other groups, organizations and contexts.” When independent and scientifically rigorous evaluations are needed, “evidence-based” practices are used.

“Evidence-based practices” have the following components: (1) They have been studied using appropriate scientific methodology; (2) they have been replicated in more than one geographic or practice setting with consistent results; (3) they have been recognized in scientific journals by one or more published articles; (4) there is an implementation manual to follow; and (5) specific outcomes are produced (Campos, 2011).

These definitions suggest the PERF 15 Principles are nothing more than non-scientific recommendations. As previously discussed, none of the scientific findings on prone restraint and officer-associated deaths is included in the PERF report. An unproven theory and two case studies are the only pillars for MBE recommendations.

Summary

PERF is applauded for tackling this issue, but its myopic focus on MBEs, lack of scientific support and claiming these are “best practices” when they do not meet the definition requires critical reading of the report before adopting any of the recommendations. Few will disagree that unnecessarily applying an ECW is unacceptable and there is needed guidance on this and other important issues. PERF, like other advocacy groups, has no ministerial authority or legislative power to “mandate” law enforcement agencies adopt its recommendations. Plaintiff counsel will conflate them into “standards” in an attempt to hold municipalities and officers accountable. **P&SN**

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Springfield Armory® Echelon™ 4.0C

For either uniform or plainclothes carry, the Springfield Armory Echelon 4.0C sits squarely in the winner's circle.

MIKE BOYLE

Much has changed since the 1980s when law enforcement agencies began the mass transition away from traditional revolvers to semiautomatic pistols. At the time, double-action pistols ruled and that trend continued for many years. Double-action pistols had evolved to a point where earlier reliability issues had been resolved and, because of the fact that the US Armed Services had gone down that road, it was logical that law enforcement agencies would follow. Striker-fired, polymer frame pistols were relatively new to the scene and, in many quarters, there were questions as to their suitability for police service.

Traditions die hard in law enforcement and it took quite some time before the consensus was that striker-fired pistols were not only a great choice, but, in many respects, superior to the DA pistols which came before them. Perhaps the biggest reason why striker-fired pistols caught on is that the learning curve isn't nearly as steep as with a DA pistol, an important quality when training large numbers of officers. Today, striker-fired, polymer frame pistols are the overwhelming choice for law enforcement and every major manufacturer has now gotten into the act.

Springfield Armory's first striker-fired, polymer frame pistol was the XD®, first marketed here in 2002. The XD is a slightly more refined version of the HS2000 which was produced by HS Produkt of Croatia. Springfield acquired the rights to sell the gun here in the US and re-branded it as the XD (eXtreme Duty). It is currently available in several different size configurations and popular chambering, including 9mm, .40 S&W and .45ACP. In 2023, Springfield Armory introduced the Echelon, a next generation pistol also made by HS Produkt. To say the least, the Echelon is a highly refined pistol with features not found in competitive designs. Especially impressive is the slim grip, a quality often absent in other high capacity pistols. Once the service-size Echelon became established, it was inevitable that Springfield Armory would introduce a slightly more compact version. The new Echelon 4.0C is now a reality and it is indeed a standout in a crowded field of similar pistols.

Pistol Particulars

Generally speaking, a compact is a somewhat abbreviated version of a full-

The Springfield Armory® Echelon™ 4.0C is a compact pistol. The standard package includes a 15 round magazine, plus an 18 round extended magazine.

National Law Enforcement Handbook For Special Needs Populations

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By Larry E. Holtz Esq. & Barbara J. Morvay

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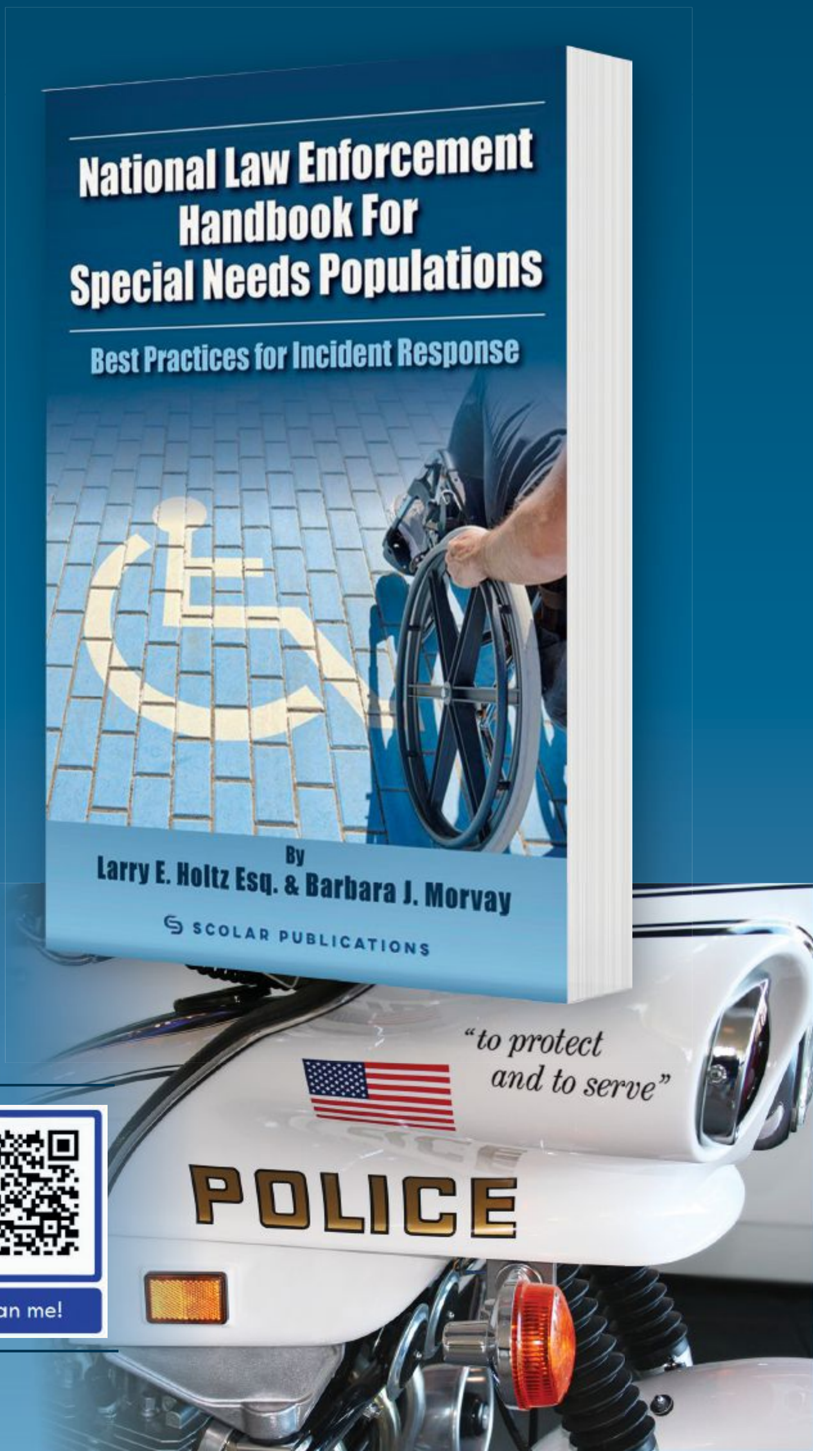
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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY® ECHELON™ 4.0C

Continued from page 30

The Echelon™ 4.0C can be easily fieldstripped for cleaning and lubrication.

size service pistol with a slightly shorter slide and grip frame. The Echelon 4.0C is true to that formula and retains all of the positive features of the parent pistol. What makes compact-size pistols so popular is the fact that they give up very little, if anything, to a service-size pistol and can be utilized in a traditional police duty rig or discreetly carried by plainclothes officers.

On the Echelon 4.0C, the barrel has been reduced from 4.5 inches to four inches with a corresponding reduction in slide length. The total length of the pistol is 7.25 inches. The grip frame, too, has been cut back and this yields a height of 5.125 inches with a flush fit magazine in place. To some, this may not seem like that big of a difference when compared to the full-size Echelon, but, when it comes to getting under the radar, every little bit helps. With a 15 round magazine in place, the Echelon 4.0C weighs 24 ounces empty.

The quality which sets the Echelon family apart from most other striker-fired pistols is the self-contained Central Operating Group. This serialized unit is the fire control system of the gun and can be removed for cleaning or placed in other grip modules with little fuss. Crafted from stainless steel, it provides a robust housing for critical components with reduced tolerances. Components are made of tool steel and a second sear adds another measure of safety. The Central Operating Group also includes a set of rails on which the slide reciprocates.

Another outstanding quality is the patent pending optics mounting system. The Variable Interface System allows the end user to mount over 30 different optics directly onto the slide without using an adapter plate. Without question, plates are often the Achilles heel of a red dot optic and, by eliminating this potential issue, one is far better served. It also allows the optic to sit slightly lower in the slide and avoid the use of suppressor height sights. Considering the ever growing popularity of red dot optics in police service, this is a huge advantage.

The Variable Interface System employs self-locking pins which make this one of the most advanced optics mounting systems currently available. As the mounting screws are torqued down to spec, the pins exert lateral pressure on the optics interior mounting surface which eliminates left/right movement.

Springfield Armory uses a hammer forging process to create barrels for the Echelon family. The end result is a superstrong barrel which delivers excellent accuracy and a long service life. Both threaded and non-threaded barrels are available for the Echelon Compact 4.0C and the barrel and slide are coated with Melonite® to resist wear and defeat the el-

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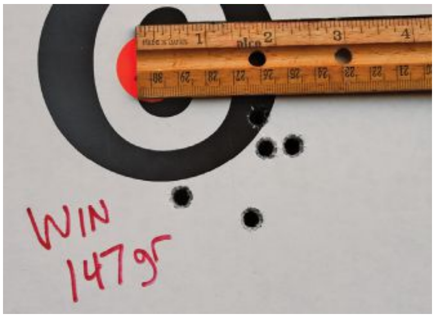

Winchester® Ranger 147-grain JHP produced excellent accuracy potential when fired through the Echelon™ 4.0C.

ements.

The slide features deep diagonal serrations, both fore and aft. A trench cut forward of the action allows the user to easily retract the slide to perform a press check to ascertain the condition of the pistol. The careful eye will also note a flare at the rear of the slide for positive manipulation.

Standard sights of the Echelon 4.0C consist of a tritium/green luminescent front mated to a Tactical Rack U-notch rear. This is a very slick combination and, if you prefer "old-school" iron sights to an optic, there is nothing better. For those who march to a different beat, 3-dot tritium sights are also available.

The standard package includes a 15 round magazine, as well as an extended 18 round magazine. Packages with ten round magazines are also available for those who live in more restrictive jurisdictions.

Superior Frame Design

One of the flaws in some of the earlier striker-fired, polymer frame pistols was a boxy frame with subpar human engineering. Unless you had hands like an NBA center, for many users, the grip frame felt like you were holding a box of cereal. For the most part, that situation has been corrected with the widespread use of interchangeable backstraps and nonslip gripping surfaces, but the Echelon knocks it out of the park. Like many contemporary pistols, the Echelon 4.0C features interchangeable backstraps so the end user can optimize fit to the hand. Taking it one step further, alternate grip modules in small, medium and large sizes are also available. By mixing and matching the backstraps and grip modules, a perfect fit can be realized for just about everyone.

Another nice touch is Springfield's proprietary Adaptive Grip Texture. At first glance, the textured grip frame appears almost smooth, but once you apply pressure with a shooting grip, it makes for a very positive nonslip hold. Unlike some grip textures which are overly aggressive and bite the hand, the "Goldilocks factor" comes into play here and it feels just right. For users who carry a concealed pistol, the Adaptive Grip Texture will not adhere to a covering garment and give you up. When shooting a pistol, I tend to use a thumbs forward hold and a textured indexing point just above the trigger guard helps me firm up my grip.

The Echelon 4.0C is totally ambidextrous with a dual side slide stop and magazine release. This, of course, makes this southpaw shooter very happy. Initially, I thought the ambidextrous slide stop was too small to quickly run when time is of the essence, but that has not proven to be the case.

The trigger guard is slightly oversize for use with gloved hands and, considering I have been shooting the 4.0C in the dead of winter, that is yet another frill. The trigger guard is slightly undercut and the frame extends just a tad beyond the rear of the slide to protect the hand.

As with most modern pistols, the Echelon is outfitted with a rail for affixing a white light or laser. I worked my Echelon 4.0C with units from SureFire, Streamlight® and INFORCE® Lights and there were no surprises.

Range Impressions

As this is written, I've owned my Echelon 4.0C for about three months and have been very pleased with its performance. This pistol has been 100% reliable with ball, hollowpoint and frangible ammunition, as well as some ancient reloads I put together during the second Reagan administration! When shooting from a stable rest, accuracy potential was on par or better with similar pistols from other quality manufacturers.

My informal performance evaluation of the Echelon 4.0C took place on a blustery March day and considering the less than optimum conditions, I was pleased with the results. Five shot groups were fired from a distance of 25 yards with the aid of a Hornady® Delta Rest. Groups were measured to the nearest 1/8 inch and the

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Ambidextrous controls are another nice touch on the Echelon™ 4.0C.

results averaged. As luck would have it, I was able to shoot sub two inch groups with both Winchester® Ranger 147-grain JHP load, as well as 135-grain Hornady FlexLock® Critical Duty®. My moments of brilliance faded ever so slightly when factored in with the other five shot clusters, but average group size under three inches with service quality ammunition is very good.

At some point in time, I might put an optic on this pistol, but, for right now, I'm sticking with the factory sights. I plan to use this pistol as a training aid and, with that said, I like to keep my gear similar to, or the same as, what our officers are using at the moment. I don't feel the least bit handicapped as the Echelon 4.0C has among the best factory sights of any serious fighting pistol. In fast-paced dynamic drills, the sights proved very quick to pick up and obtain a reliable index on the target.

One of the issues when a new pistol comes on the market is getting the proper holster for it and I am not a fan of "almost fits." Fortunately, DeSantis has produced their excellent Veiled Partner® concealment holster crafted out of KYDEX®. The Veiled Partner rides tight to the body and can be set up for either a 1½" or 1¾" belt. The fact that the end user can adjust ride height and rake makes this a good choice for discriminating users. Tension is also adjustable so one can set the desired level of resistance on the draw stroke. Like all DeSantis holsters, the Veiled Partner represents a best buy in a quality design.

Finding a light bearing holster for the Echelon 4.0C has proven a little more difficult, but, by the time you read this, I expect there will be several options out there for the taking. For the interim, I pressed my Blackhawk® Omnivore™ into service when conducting low light training. The Omnivore will accommodate just about all popular full-size and compact pistols utilized by law enforcement personnel when outfitted with illuminators. I ran the Echelon 4.0C with a Streamlight TLR-2 HL® which features an intense white light along with a visible red laser. As expected, I had no issues whatsoever and these combos proved very effective when shooting in reduced light.

The Veiled Partner® from DeSantis is a secure design which proved to be very comfortable.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:
Springfield Amory® Echelon™ 4.0C 9mm

	AVERAGE GROUP	AVERAGE MUZZLE VELOCITY
Federal® American Eagle 124-gr. FMJ	3 ½"	1113 fps
Federal Hydra-Shok® 124 gr. JHP +P+	3 1/8"	1199 fps
Hornady® Critical Duty® 135-gr. FlexLock	2 ¾"	1062 fps
Winchester® Ranger 147-gr. JHP	2 7/8"	1027 fps

(Muzzle velocities were recorded by an Oehler 35P Chronograph placed ten feet from the muzzle.)

Final Thoughts

Any serious handgun used for self-defense or defense of others must be reliable, reasonably accurate, fit the hand, have a good set of sights, and a decent trigger. This new compact from Springfield Armory gets high marks in all of those critical categories.

On my Lyman Electronic Digital Trigger Pull Gauge, a little more than five pounds of rearward pressure tripped the striker. In my book, this is about right for a pistol you might have to use to defend your life. As indicated earlier, the Echelon 4.0C was reliable and sights really grab your attention as soon as you drive the pistol to eye level. I would categorize fit to the hand and human engineering to be excellent.

Apparently, others have come to the same conclusion. Recently, the Echelon 4.0C received the prestigious Gold Logo recommendation by the National Tactical Officers Association. P&SN

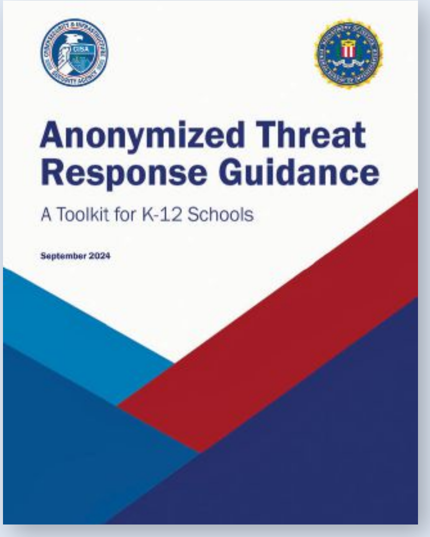
Captain Mike Boyle served with New Jersey Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been active in use-of-force instruction for over 40 years. He is an instructor in multiple firearms and less-lethal disciplines and has been a police academy assistant director, instructor and rangemaster. He is the author of three books; three training videos; and hundreds of magazine articles on firearms, training and tactics. Mike served 21 years on the Board of Directors of IALEFI and is a member of NLEFIA and ILEETA. He continues to work part-time as a law enforcement training specialist and resides in Forked River, NJ.

NEWS

K-12 Anonymized Threat Response Guidance

The “Anonymized Threat Response Guidance: A Toolkit for K-12 Schools” can help K-12 schools and law enforcement and community partners create tailored approaches to addressing anonymous threats of violence, including those received on social media. The toolkit outlines steps which school leaders can take to assess and respond to anonymous threats and to better prepare for, and prevent, future threats. It also highlights how K-12 schools can work with law enforcement and community partners in addressing these threats.

The accompanying “Anonymized Threat Response Guidance: A Reference Guide for K-12 Schools” provides streamlined information for K-12 stakeholders to understand and utilize some of the best practices from the full toolkit.


Anonymized Threat Response Guidance
A Toolkit for K-12 Schools
September 2024

These products are applicable to K-12 schools across diverse geographical settings, student populations and levels of maturity in emergency operations planning.

To download PDFs of both the toolkit and reference guide, visit **https://tinyurl.com/bsrayua5**

DEA Releases New Ketamine Resources

The DEA has a new Web page on the Diversion Control Division Website dedicated to ketamine. Ketamine is a dissociative anesthetic which has some hallucinogenic effects. It distorts the perception of sight and sound and makes the user feel disconnected and not in control. It is referred to as a “dissociative anesthetic hallucinogen” because it makes patients feel detached from their pain and environment.

To learn more about ketamine trends, common street names, and enforcement related to the drug, visit **https://tinyurl.com/5d54efpn**

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Eddie Eagle

GunSafe® Program

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® program is the NRA's gun accident prevention program that seeks to help parents, law enforcement, community groups and educators navigate a topic paramount to our children's safety. Eddie and his Wing Team are on a mission to help you teach Pre-K through 4th graders what to do if they ever come across a gun...

STOP! DON'T TOUCH! RUN AWAY! TELL A GROWN-UP!

Eddie's fun and free material, available at **eddieeagle.nra.org**, makes it easy to understand and remember his safety advice with a catchy song and a scenario in which Eddie and his friends—the WingTeam—encounter just such a situation and help each other (with the help of trusted grown-ups) learn how to stay safe. The Eddie Eagle Tree House website at **eddieeagle.com** lets children explore these safety concepts more fully, but in a fun way, with lessons, coloring pages, storybooks, etc...

A Parents' Guide To Gun Safety

Talking With Your Child
Speak openly and honestly about gun safety with your children. Answer questions and help eliminate the mystery surrounding guns. It is your decision when your child is ready to learn about or handle firearms.

Toy Guns Vs. Real Guns
Children are often exposed to guns at an early age through television, movies and video games. Make sure your child understands the difference between entertainment and reality and does not mistake a real gun for a toy gun.

Eddie Eagle Gunsafe® Program
Young children must know how to stay safe if they encounter a firearm. Teach your child to remember Eddie Eagle's Gun Safety Message: **"STOP! DON'T TOUCH. LEAVE THE AREA. TELL AN ADULT."**
For more information about Eddie Eagle visit Eddie.NRA.org.

Basic Gun Safety Rules
If you decide your children are ready to learn how to shoot a firearm, remember NRA's 3 basic gun safety rules:

1. **ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
2. **ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
3. **ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program

If you see a gun ...
STOP
DON'T TOUCH
RUN AWAY
TELL A GROWN-UP

Hi! I'm Eddie Eagle, and this is the Wing Team! We're here to teach you an important lesson about gun safety. If you haven't watched our special video yet, be sure to visit **EddieEagle.com!** You will find more fun activities like sing-alongs, coloring pages, and my favorite—the Wing Team Challenge!

3rd Grade and 4th Grade

Another important way Eddie spreads his message is through the mascot costume. These costumes are now available to law enforcement, fire departments, EMS and school administratiant agencies through an NRA Foundation State Fund grant.

For more information, please visit https://eddieeagle.nra.org

OLIGHT

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The Arkfeld PRO is a portable EDC flashlight that offers three light sources: white light, green laser, and UV. It features a high-performance LED that can reach a maximum brightness of 1300 lumens. With the inclusion of a 520nm green laser module and UV light, this product finds applications across a wide range of uses. Monitoring battery usage is made easy with the intuitive battery indicator. The light's magnetic tail enables easy attachment to metal surfaces, providing convenient illumination wherever it's needed.

LUMENS 1,300 | METERS 102 | HOURS 264

≤5 mW
UV mW 900

OCLIP PRO

THREE LIGHTS, INFINITE FREEDOM

Military-grade aluminum body with 3-way mount (magnetic/clip/hang) delivers 500lm flood, 120m spot, and 40lm NV-ready red light. Tactical scroll switch activates Beacon(24hr)/Strobe modes. IPX6-rated with 144hr endurance from compact 580mAh cell.

LUMENS 500

METERS 120

HOURS 144

WARRIOR 3S

TACTICAL POWER WITH PROXIMITY SENSOR

The Warrior 3S’ s LED, paired with a TIR optic lens, delivers up to 2,300 lumens. It features six output settings. For tactical operations, the dual-stage tail switch allows quick and easy access to Turbo and Strobe modes. The proximity sensor proactively reduces the brightness level in case of obstruction. Additionally, its tailcap is compatible with an optional dual-button remote switch for WML applications. Powered by a 5000mAh 21700 battery, it can be easily charged using the MCC3 cable. The Warrior 3S is a do-it-all tactical flashlight that will guide you through any situation.

LUMENS 2,300
METERS 300
DAYS 55

SEEKER 4 PRO

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE INSIDE AND OUT

The Seeker 4 Pro features an incredible maximum output of 4,600 lumens and a 260-meter beam distance. Its enlarged metal side switch offers better grip and smoother stepless dimming, even with gloves. The flashlight incorporates laser microperforation technology for the first time in the flashlight industry, enhancing indicator visibility while offering a futuristic and elegant appearance. Moreover, this upgraded version comes with an industry-leading innovative holster that offers flashlight auto lock/unlock, USB-C charging, storage, and carrying options. The included 5000mAh rechargeable 21700 battery ensures a maximum runtime of 15 days in Moonlight mode. Cool white and neutral white color temperature versions are available.

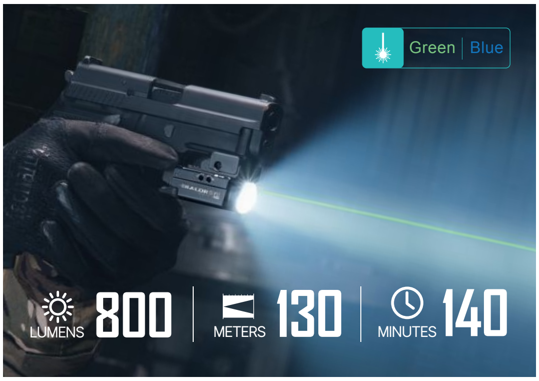
LUMENS 4,600 | METERS 260 | DAYS 15

ODIN MINI

COMPACT M-LOK MOUNT TACTICAL LIGHT

The Odin Mini features a rotate-to-lock slide rail mount for convenience and rigidity. It includes some popular features like the vibration battery indicator, stainless-steel tail switch, and magnetic charging. Powered by a 2040mAh battery, it delivers a maximum output of 1,250 lumens and a 240-meter beam distance. With its compact size, incredible performance, and ultra-solid build, it is one of the most feature-packed WML options.

LUMENS 1,250 | METERS 240 | HOURS 5



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MARAUDER MINI

A MINI BEAST WITH EVERYTHING: FLOOD, SPOT, AND RGB.

The Marauder Mini is a miniature version of Olight's Marauder series. Powered by a customized 24Wh 32650 rechargeable lithium battery, it provides a maximum runtime of 43.5 hours.

It offers two powerful beam choices: a 600-meter maximum throw from the central LED's spotlight beam or a 7,000-lumen maximum output floodlight beam from the surrounding LEDs. Three RGB LEDs are evenly distributed around the lens, greatly enhancing its usefulness on any outdoor adventure. It features a toggle switch to select either spot or flood mode, and an intuitive rotary knob switch allowing for quick selection from seven different brightness levels. Smaller in size but still powerful like a beast, the Marauder Mini is a must-have for search & rescue, hunting and other outdoor activities.

LUMENS 7,000
METERS 600
HOURS 43.5

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STAYING SAFE AND SMART: How Modern Handgun Safeties Help You Avoid Legal Trouble

Officers and armed citizens must maintain their defensive firearms to factory standards, with all safety features intact, as they are liable for the weapon's condition in court.

LARRY J. NICHOLS

As an honorably retired law enforcement firearms instructor, armorer and firearms expert witness, it has become abundantly clear to me that the significance of maintaining a defensive handgun to factory specifications has largely become lost on many individuals who carry a personal defense handgun. This has prompted me to share my opinion which is based on my many years of training and experience.

Law enforcement officers and lawfully armed citizens are responsible for the quality and condition of their personally owned or issued defensive firearms. When carrying a handgun as a defensive measure, you have also accepted the liability for that firearm and the responsibility to insure that the weapon is maintained within factory specifications. For the weapon to be court defensible in a criminal or civil trial, all safety features must be present and working as designed by the manufacturer. If involved in a defensive shooting as a law enforcement officer or a legally armed citizen, the firearm you used will become evidence and placed in an evidence locker by the police. The DA (District Attorney) and your defense counsel will likely retain a firearms expert witness to accomplish a comprehensive inspection of the alleged firearm. Having been retained by both district attorneys and defense counsels in criminal and civil trials, I can assure you that said firearm will be completely inspected and documented. The primary importance of the inspection is to see if any modifications to the safety features and trigger system designed by the manufacturer have been removed, altered, deactivated, not functioning as designed, or replaced with aftermarket parts. Any alterations found will be recorded and may be used against you (or for you) in court. You will have to justify in court why the weapon was altered; why the safety deactivated or was not functioning as designed; or why the original components have been replaced with non-factory parts.

Now that you have some idea of what can happen to you in court concerning your defensive handgun, let us look at some of the safety features built into present-day handguns.

SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS

Manual Safeties

Grip Safety: Located on the backstrap of the frame, this prevents the trigger's rearward movement. The H&K P7 & P13 use a squeeze cocking system. The

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STAYING SAFE AND SMART: HOW MODERN HANDGUN SAFETIES HELP YOU AVOID LEGAL

Continued from page 40

To maximize safety, always fire a defensive revolver in double-action mode.

shooter has to squeeze the front of the grip frame to cock the firing system.

Thumb Safety: Located on the left rear of the frame, some pistols have the thumb safety on both sides of the frame. This prevents the hammer/sear from moving.

Slide Mounted Safety/Decocking Lever: Located on the rear of the slide, some pistols have this lever on both sides which is designed as a manual safety and will safely lower the cocked hammer, preventing the hammer striking the firing pin.

Decocking Lever: Mounted on the left side of the frame, it is designed to safely lower the cocked hammer.

Trigger Safety: Located in the trigger, it is designed to prevent trigger rearward movement.

Passive Safeties

Firing Pin Safety: Located in the slide, it is designed to prevent movement of the firing pin until the trigger is pulled fully to the rear.

Drop Safety: Located inside the frame, it is designed to prevent the pistol from firing until the trigger is pulled fully to the rear.

Disconnector: Located in the frame, it is designed to prevent the pistol from firing when the slide and barrel are not locked together. It also prevents the semiautomatic pistol from firing full-auto.

Trigger Weight

With standard sear engagement and standard springs, trigger pulls of four pounds (minimum) to 7½ pounds (maximum) are typical results. Trigger pull weights of less than four pounds increase the danger of a negligent discharge during a high stress incident. The trigger pull weight of a defensive handgun should never be below factory minimum specifications (four pounds) to be considered court defensible. Installing aftermarket trigger systems in a defensive handgun will likely present significant legal challenges in court and is NOT recommended by this author.

Internal Key Lock

A distinctive key is necessary to lock or unlock the handgun's fire control system.

DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS
Manual and Passive Safeties

The safeties listed below are for the Smith & Wesson® family of double-action revolvers. However, Colt® and Ruger®, as well as other quality double-action revolvers, have similar systems. Modern double-action revolvers do not have manual safeties. There are several passive safeties designed into the moving parts of the firing system.

Rebound

Included are the rebound seat on the hammer; the hammer seat on the rebound slide; and the 17 coil rebound spring. These parts are designed to move the trigger forward faster than the cocked hammer can move forward; preventing the revolver from firing, should the cocked hammer slip off the trigger.

Hammer Block

The hammer block is held in place by an alignment pin attached to the rebound slide and designed to prevent the revolver from firing should the hammer pivot pin fail for any reason.

Trigger Weight

Single-action trigger weight is designed to prevent the revolver from firing should the trigger of a cocked revolver rotate on the trigger finger. The single-action trigger weight must be heavier than the total weight of the loaded revolver. Minimum trigger weight is three pounds for a .38 Special and 3½ pounds for the .357 Magnum. The double-action trigger weight is a safety and will typically range from ten pounds to 14 pounds. For safety reasons, the defensive revolver should always be fired in the double-action mode.

Magnum Hand

The Magnum hand has a hardened steel pin attached to it and the hand is the part which rotates the cylinder. The Magnum hand is affixed to the trigger with a torsion spring. The hand pin is designed to prevent the cylinder from opening due to heavy recoiling energy.

Magnum Center Pin and Spring

The center pin is in the center of the cylinder assembly and is designed to prevent the cylinder from opening due to heavy recoil.

Internal Key Lock

It is the same as the semiautomatic pistol.

To be court defensible, all defensive handguns should be inspected, adjusted or repaired to factory specifications by a factory certified armorer each year. Inspections and repairs on defensive handguns should then be documented and filed for your records. Every little detail about your defensive handgun will be examined by attorneys and an expert witness and you will have to defend every feature. Refrain from adding aggressive graphics or messages to your firearm or gear – you want to project the image of a responsible, peace minded individual. I also recommend that you carry the same ammunition in your defensive handgun which your local police or county sheriff issues to their officers and deputies. That's one less detail you'll have to defend. Changing the sights and/or stocks, as they are properly called (not

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grips), can work in your favor in the eyes of the jury. Upgrading the sight will improve your hit probability and improving the gripping surface on the handgun will improve your control of the handgun.

As a retired law enforcement rangemaster/armorer, my everyday carry handgun is a "box stock," entirely black pistol, except for the upgraded sight and I carry the same ammunition in my personal defense pistol which the local county sheriff issues to their deputies.

Avoiding Modifications

I do believe that replacing the factory springs and installing some impractical aftermarket trigger system in your defensive pistol is the deepest rabbit hole in which a defendant can place himself. I strongly recommend you maintain the factory trigger system in your defensive handgun. Frequent live and dry fire practice helps break in the trigger, making it smoother and easier to pull over time. My defensive pistols' trigger weights are heavier than the factory's minimum weight of five pounds and lighter than the factory's maximum trigger weight of eight pounds. I personally will not reduce the factory trigger weight below minimum and I certainly will not install any aftermarket trigger system in any firearm intended for personal defense.

We must train for the violent act to survive it and we must also train to survive the legal system's course of action which will surely follow the altercation. A good start would be to refrain from doing anything which would help the legal system take away your freedom and/or your money. Modifying the fire control system on your defensive handgun will be especially difficult to justify during a legal proceeding, where human emotions get involved.

Violent confrontations are measured in seconds, while the legal court procedures will be measured in years – three to five years for criminal trials and three to five years for civil trials. This represents a significant amount of time away from your loved ones and a financial burden of thousands of dollars. **P&SN**

Larry J. Nichols retired in 2011 after 27 years of honorable service as the Senior Rangemaster/Armorer for the Burbank (CA) Police Department. He served five years with the Orange County (CA) Sheriff's Department as their Firearms Instructor/Armorer before moving to Burbank, California.

Larry has over 40 years of experience as a professional firearms instructor, with over 31 years as a law enforcement lethal, less lethal and less than lethal force instructor. He is internationally noted for his innovative and pioneering work in the planning, development and implementation of realistic law enforcement firearms training programs. He enjoys receiving feedback from his readers and he can be contacted at gunnyretired@gmail.com.

Edged Weapon Defense:

Lessons from the Past

Present-day officers must relearn and strengthen their ability to recognize threats; understand the deadly potential of even small weapons; and accurately judge when the use of deadly force is appropriate.

MICHAEL T. RAYBURN

Lately, it seems we have been inundated with numerous videos of officers being attacked with edged weapons, resulting in multiple cases of officers being slashed; stabbed; and, in some instances, stabbed several times. I am not here to point fingers, but, clearly, somewhere along the way, the officers' training has failed them. Have we forgotten the critical officer safety lessons from the past? Consider how long ago the Tueller Drill was developed (1983). For those unfamiliar, the Tueller Drill – often mistakenly called a "rule" – is actually a training exercise demonstrating that a suspect armed with an edged weapon (or any weapon) can cover 21 feet in a matter of seconds. When facing an edged weapon, an officer often has just enough time to draw and fire a single round before being overtaken and attacked. This drill was once a standard part of law enforcement training across the country and even adopted in other nations as part of officer safety practices. Over the years, the Tueller Drill has been analyzed, refined and expanded – something I have written about and taught myself – yet, it now appears to be either omitted from training or, at the very least, neglected on the streets.

Unwillingness to Apply Force

How else can we explain why officers allow suspects with edged weapons to close in within a few feet before reacting? Part of the answer may lie in today's societal climate, when some officers, wary of public scrutiny, hesitate to use force. However, history and FBI research teach us that "reluctance to use force" is a dangerous trait often observed among officers who were murdered in the line of duty. The FBI has long collected statistics on officers killed and assaulted, and their interviews with cop killers reveal a chilling fact: The officers they killed often used less force than the attackers themselves would have used if the roles were reversed. In short, had the killers been in the officers' shoes, they would have used deadly force far sooner, thereby surviving the encounter.

While today's emphasis on de-escalation training has its place, we must not abandon the hard learned lessons of the past regarding officer safety. De-escalation techniques are important, but they have limits. When a suspect armed with an edged weapon actively closes the distance, the officer's life is in immediate jeopardy. The fact that more officers have not been killed in recent incidents may be due to sheer luck – something which we cannot continue to rely upon. Recognizing that an edged weapon presents a deadly threat within 21 feet is vital. Of course, circumstances must dictate whether the threat is immediate enough to justify deadly force. A real-world example would be a suspect with one leg in a wheelchair brandishing a knife. While he poses a threat, his ability to deliver that threat depends on distance and other variables. Similarly, a subject holding a box cutter while standing ten feet away behind a six foot chain-link fence topped with barbed wire is a threat, but not necessarily an immediate one – unless he/she attempts to climb the fence.

Maintaining a 21 foot distance isn't always possible – if a suspect reaches into a pocket for a weapon, act immediately to prevent the draw.

Not a Hard-and-Fast Rule

This illustrates why the Tueller Drill must be understood as a drill and not misapplied as an absolute rule. If it were a rigid rule, any suspect within 21 feet could justify deadly force, regardless of other critical factors. However, both examples demonstrate that action – not proximity alone – determines when a suspect becomes an immediate threat. Beyond recognizing that edged weapons pose a threat, officers must develop a true respect for the damage they can inflict. Too many officers exhibit a dangerously cavalier attitude toward knives, perhaps believing that, because they have a gun, a knife is "only" a secondary threat. This mindset must change. Even a small pocketknife can cause catastrophic injuries. A quick search online will reveal brutal knife attacks when victims, struck in vital areas like the neck or groin, died in no time at all – often before even realizing they were wounded. These assailants are usually not trained knife fighters, but ordinary individuals armed with a blade. Officers must remember that they are not immune to becoming victims themselves; countless officers bear the scars as proof.

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EDGED WEAPON DEFENSE: LESSONS FROM THE PAST

Continued from page 44

One research study found that sidestepping an attacker generated the most amount of additional time to engage the threat.

edged weapons and understanding what constitutes an immediate threat are both essential. Simply claiming, "He was within 21 feet, so I shot him," is not sufficient and, as demonstrated in the case involving the wheelchair bound suspect, will not hold up in court. Once an officer fully appreciates the dangers posed by edged weapons, they must also grasp how to properly identify an immediate threat. Though it seems incredible that this even needs to be discussed, the frequency of recent attacks makes it necessary. A simple three-step process can aid officers in making these critical decisions: assess weapon, intent and delivery system. Recalling the earlier example: The suspect behind a fence with a box cutter certainly possesses a weapon and exhibits intent through verbal threats, but without a delivery system – such as breaching the fence – the threat is not immediate. Even if the suspect attempts to climb the fence, nonlethal options may still be viable before resorting to deadly force. However, once the barrier is overcome, the threat can escalate quickly and must be reassessed.

A Recent Example

A real-world case further underscores these lessons. Recently, a man armed with a knife was confronted by officers on a subway platform. He possessed a weapon and, once he entered a crowded subway car, had a delivery system. He did not verbally threaten the officers, raising the question of intent. However, intent is not always conveyed through words; actions can speak just as loudly. The suspect's refusal to comply with lawful commands and his escalation of the situation by entering a confined, crowded space constituted clear indicators of dangerous intent. Watching the footage leaves little doubt that the officers' proximity to the suspect was reckless and that critical safety principles were disregarded. (YouTube video: **https://tinyurl.com/3e63wdec**)

In conclusion, the past offers hard learned lessons about edged weapon defense which we cannot afford to ignore. Recognizing threats, respecting the lethality of even a small knife, and properly assessing when deadly force is justified are skills which must be revived and reinforced among today's officers. Our survival – and the survival of those we serve – depends on it.

Michael T. Rayburn has been involved in law enforcement for over 40 years. He is a retired police officer, former Adjunct Instructor at the Smith & Wesson Academy and is the author of five books. Mike can be reached at ***combatgunfighting.com***

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SHOW GUIDE

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POLICE SECURITY EXPO 2025 EXHIBITOR LISTINGS

22nd Century Technologies	636
225 Public Safety Group	2347
365Labs	1749
911 Circuits	1031
911 Leasing	2235
Action Bullet Resistant	2217
Advanced Robot Solutions	1225
Advanced Security Technologies	1637
Aegent Technologies, LLC	614
All American Ford in Old Bridge	1354
All City Management Services, Inc.	1337
All Traffic Solutions	837
Alliance Orthopedics	1750
Allstate Office Interiors	1025
AmChar Wholesale Inc. Law Division	1457
American Aluminum Accessories	2144
American Recycling Technologies, Inc.	1540
Armor Research Company	1237
Aspirant Consulting Group	1948
Atlantic Tactical	1548
Atlantic Uniform/Armor Express	2016
Atlas Flasher & Supply Co. Inc.	1345
Axis Communications	1554
Axon	619
BG Bracing, LLC	941
BK Technologies	1738
Badge Company of New Jersey LLC	1936
Barash & McGarry 9/11 Law Firm	2239
Benelli LE	1455
Bernstein Test Prep	2023
Billy Graham, National Law Enforcement Ministry	1937
BioOne of Chester County	2343
Blac-Rac Manufacturing	1045
Black Mamba Gloves	1641
Blauer Mfg. Co.	1830
Block Communications	913
Blue Line Studios – John Kiernan	2154
Blue360° Media	724
Bob Johnson's Computer Stuff, Inc.	1433
Brother International Corporation	1021
Buzz Seating, Inc.	1751
CDW	639
CIPS-AI (Caryl Technologies)	2241
CM3 Building Solutions, Inc.	1731
Card Data Systems/Toshiba	1040
Cardio Pulmonary Diagnostic	1132
CARFAX for Police	2041
CaseGuard	810
Certified Speedometer Service	2128
CHIEFMART.COM	2254
Choice SportsCards	840
Code 3	907
Cody Systems	1245
Cognitec	2037
Collective Data	2038
Compliant Technologies	1742
Concept Print	1136
Condor Outdoor Products	1152
Continental Fire & Safety, Inc.	1033
COPS Training Portal (Powered by NCPI)	2025
Critical Response Group	945
CUTCO	2049
Dead Air Silencers	1837
DeLorenzo's ASP The Image Factory	2138
DreamSeat	725
Drug Enforcement Administration	1647
Drugloo International USA	547
Dummies Unlimited, Inc.	1616
EAA Corp.	1339
ESS, Inc.	1645
Eagle Engraving, Inc.	1127
Eagle Point Gun/T.J. Morris & Sons	1446
East Coast Emergency Lighting, Inc.	1415
Eastern DataComm	1449
Ecos Systems Inc.	1041
Elequil Aromatabs by Beekley Medical	936
Elite Vehicle Solutions	1527, 1621, 1629
eMazzanti	1130
Emergi-Clean, Inc.	1332
Enforsys, Inc.	1650
Enterprise Fleet Management	1729
EOTECH	2224
Equitable Advisors, LLC	1929
Ericsson Enterprise Wireless Solutions, Inc.	1051
EvidenceIQ	1026
EVIDENT	1836
Extra Duty Solutions	1737
Eyemetric Identity Systems	1139
Fairleigh Dickinson University	1441
Federal Premium & Speer Ammunition	727
Federal Signal Corporation	1119
Firing Line	2017
FirstNet, Built with AT&T	825
Fitness LifeStyles	1039
Flock Safety	2042
Flying Cross	1950
ForceMetrics	824
Fotokite	741
Four Inc.	1238
Foveonics Document Solutions	1946
Franciscan University Criminal Justice Program	806
GC Shield	2136
GM Envolve	1854
Galls	1944
Genetec	1328
Getac	1138
Glock, Inc.	1723
Go Rhino	730
Goosetown Communications	2330
GovDeals	1648
GovDesigns	2122
Graphic Designs International LLC	1951
Guardian Protective Devices	1916
Hague's LLC	1850
Hanwha Vision	1927
Harley-Davidson Motor Company	1437
Havis	2329
Henry Repeating Arms	2229
Hero Industries	1721
Hertrich Fleet Services	2223
High Security Cuffs	1019
Holosun Technologies	736
Holt and McArdle Associates, Inc.	1447
HOTFOIL-EHS Inc.	1432
Howard Technologies Solutions	1044
Hunter Technologies	1849
ICOP Technology Inc.	2328
Indivior	1847
Infante Ultrasonics	1941
Influential Drones	836
Info-Cop by GTBM, Inc.	1656
Intermotive Vehicle Controls	814
Intl. Police Association – Region 10	2251
Intl. Police Mountain Bike Assn. (IPMBA)	1438
Island Tech Services	1355
J. Harris Academy of Police Training	1717
JCT Solutions	1350
JAMAR Technologies, Inc.	1736
Jotto Desk	1219
Karda	648
Keystone Mfg. Representatives	732
Keystone Public Safety, Inc.	1940
KeyTrak	1840
KOVA Corp.	1536
Kustom Signals/MPH Industries	744
LDV, Inc.	819
L.E.A.D., Inc.	2135

POLICE SECURITY EXPO 2025 EXHIBITOR LISTINGS

LH Computer Services	615
Laser Tech	1341
Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC	2350
Lawmen Supply Company of New Jersey	1324
LawSoft, Inc.	2029
Leach Strategic Partners LLC	838
Leafguard	2250
Leica Geosystems	1024
Leonardo/ELSAG LPR Solutions	1845
Let's Think Wireless, LLC (LTW)	1844
Lexipol	938
LexisNexis	2216
Lifesavers Inc.	2336
Lion featuring Elbeco	937
Logo Mat Central	2335
Logo Tags	2036
Loyal Order of Police, Inc.	939
Lund Industries	631
MES Life Safety	1823
Mack Camera	2040
Maplecrest Ford Lincoln	706
Marrero Armor LLC	925
Maximum Health & Wellness	2218
Medical Essential Diagnostics	745
Metropolitan Communications	737
Metropolitan Medical Corporation	1440
Middlesex Cnty. Police & Fire Pipes & Drums	1461
Millennium Communications Group, Inc.	2045
Mind's Eye Technologies	1923
MissionRT	738
Monmouth Telecom	2237
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	1820
Motorola Solutions-Video Security/Access Control	1239
mPay2Park	808
Municibid	1236
Municipal Equipment/Gentilini Motors	800
Municipal Parking Services (MPS)	1107
Municipal Safety Supply	1047
N-ear	1054
NJ Department of Children & Families	711
NJ Division of CJ-CODIS Unit	714
NJ Division of Criminal Justice	713
NJ Office of Information Privacy	708
NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness	710
NJ Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor	715
NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police	845
NJ Transit Police	859
NJSTART	709
Nielsen Fleet	1111

NightRide Thermal	2222
North American Heroes Medical	2146
Northeast Communications Inc.	2245
Ocean Computer Group, Inc.	1741
Off Duty Management	1532
Officer Media Group	1046
Officerstore	1839
Omnigo Software	2140
Onyx Armor	2048
Outback Armour USA LLC	1747
PFC Brakes	1444
PM AM Corporation	1949
PMC Wireless	1209
P.O. Joe's Cop Shop	1450
Packetalk	2145
Panasonic Connect	1537
Panorama Antennas Inc.	607
Pascack Data Services, Inc.	1137
Patrol PC	1421
Patrolfinder	807
PeaceKeeper International	1516
Peerless VR	649
Pellegrino Auto Group	2055
Peregrine	731
Phoenix Distributors	1241
Point Blank Enterprises	2129
Police and Security News	Entranceway
PoliceApp.com	1725
PoliceBikeStore.com	1436
Printek Mobile	726
Premier Podiatry	2118
Pro-gard Products, LLC	1321
Procomm Systems, Inc.	1644
PromoFect	1229
ProPhoenix Corporation	1544
PSTrax	640
RFMAX Antennas	826
Reconview	1945
Recovery Solutions & Title	2334
Rekor	1338
Rev Up Your Wealth & Co.	1151
RFxPremier	932
Ruger Firearms	1716
Safariland	2028
Safe Fleet	1131
Safeguard Medical	1336
Setina Mfg. Co. Inc.	1954
Sitework Associates, Inc.	Registration Area
Skydio	618
Smarsh	1142
Snore No More	1347
SoundOff Signal	1521
SoundThinking (formerly ShotSpotter)	2039

Spacesaver Corporation	1745
Stalker Radar	1349
Steele Industries Inc.	2341
Storage Systems USA	2123
Streamlight	1445
Synergy Glass & Door Service	1939
T-Mobile	1048
TG3 Electronics	1727
Tactical Public Safety	2022
TacticalEdge VR & USTASC Operations	1327
TeliApp Corporation	1340
Telrepco	1150
Teragence Ltd.	545
Terradyne Armored Vehicles	1301
The Evans Group	2338
The Gun Shop	2317
The Institute for Forensic Psychology	1538
The Police Chaplain Program	846
Traffic Plan	1360
Traffic Safety Service, LLC	1427
Traka ASSA ABLOY	1938
Transcend Security	1250
Transdev	719
Troy Products	931
Tru Spec Global	1947
Tuore-V	644
Turtle Creek	2151
Tyler Technologies	611
Unisafe Gloves	1255
United Shield International	637
V-COMM, LLC	1931
VCS-Workforce Management Solutions	1401
VeriPic	1739
Verkada	1549
Victims of Crime Compensation Office	712
Vision Detection Systems, LLC	844
Volcanic Bikes	1036
WTH Technology, Inc.	2027
Warehouse Battery Outlet, Inc.	1037
Warshauer Electric Supply	707
Westin Public Safety	1201
Whelen	1313
Wildfire Technology Integration	1145
Will-Burt	755
Winner Ford	1101
Wireless C&E	1545
XSPONSE	1333
ZOLL Medical Corporation	1917

Exhibitor listings are as of date of publication. **NOTE:** Exhibitor names and booth numbers are subject to changes and/or revisions.

PSE 2025 ATTRACTIONS

Free Admission – Open to Industry Professionals Only

SHOW HOURS

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Note: PSE attractions venue subject to change.

Daily Prize Drawing Raffles – Win a Chance to Spin the Prize Wheel!

NJSACOP LEAC Grant Program

Now Available for Communications Centers

Location: Booth #845 for Details

Presenter: Harry J. Delgado, ED.S

NJSACOP LEAP Accreditation Program Director

Are you seeking accreditation, but you need the funding? Find out about their grant program and other resources to help you achieve NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation. During fiscal year 2024-2025, the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (LEAC) Grant Program is making funds available to be used for the support of non-accredited law enforcement agencies in their pursuit of attainment of NJSACOP LEAC accreditation. The program is now available for communications centers – Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

Vintage Police Cars on Display Inside the Exhibit Hall

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Live Chief Talk Podcast in Booth #845

Meet PSE artist John Kiernan from Blue Line Studios and watch him create the Police Security Expo 40th anniversary mural for 2026.

Participate in the

Police Security Expo ANNUAL SHOOTOUT

POLICE SECURITY EXPO

- **Practice & Qualifications:** Tuesday, June 24th & Wednesday, June 25th
- **Finals & Championship Round with Trophy Presentation:** Wednesday, June 25th

Shootout Champion to have their Name engraved on the Annual Shootout Trophy, their Photo enshrined on the Winner's Board and they will receive a Gift Certificate to be used toward TWO Tickets to either a New York Yankees, New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies or Baseball Team game of their choice.

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Eagle Engraving

(10) GLOCK® Multi-purpose Backpack
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(2) $50.00 Gift Card
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(2) Amazon Fire TV Stick HD

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Caryl Technologies LLC – CIPS AI

(4) TaylorMade Golf Balls – Box of 12

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- **(2) Amazon Echo Pop**
- **(4) Charmast Portable Power Bank**
- **(2) Telescoping Back Scratcher**
- **(4) Sports Waterproof Wireless Speaker**
- **(3) Police Officer Wine Bottle Label Set**
- **(2) Police Officer Child Temporary Tattoo Set**
- **(4) Police Logo Handheld Portable Light**
- **(10) Digital Tire Pressure Gauge**
- **Zmart Cop Socks**
- **Natural Wind Neck Fan**
- **LEGO® Police Car Toy**
- **Waterproof Floating Speaker**
- **LED Night Lights (Box of Five)**
- **Professional Manicure Set**
- **Emergency Escape Hammer**
- **Blueline Necktie**
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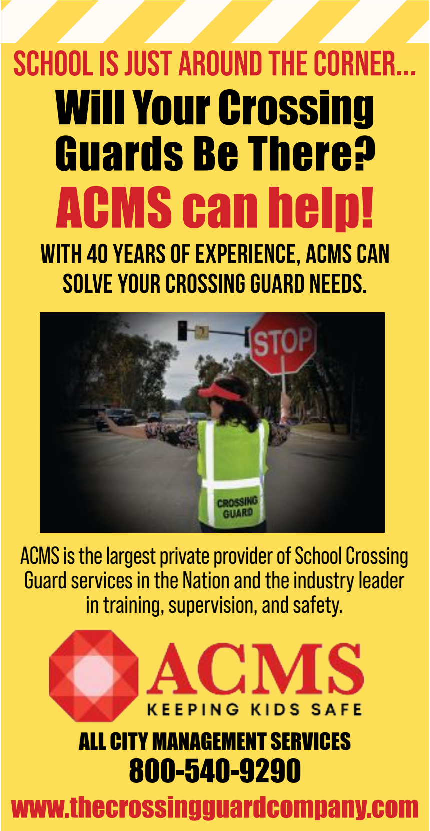

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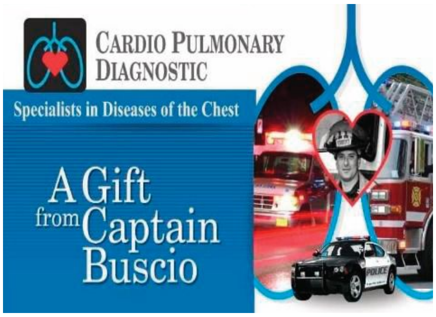
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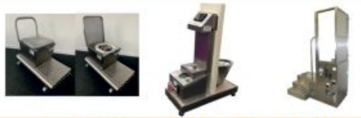

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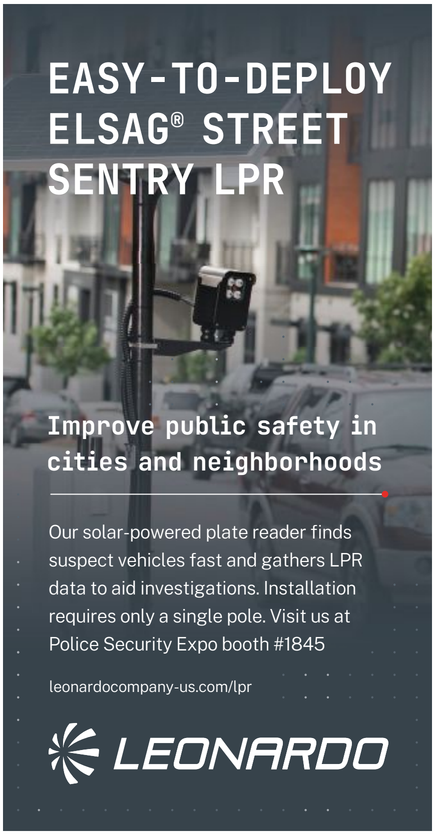

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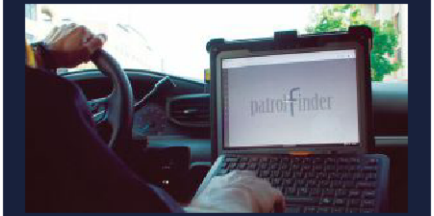

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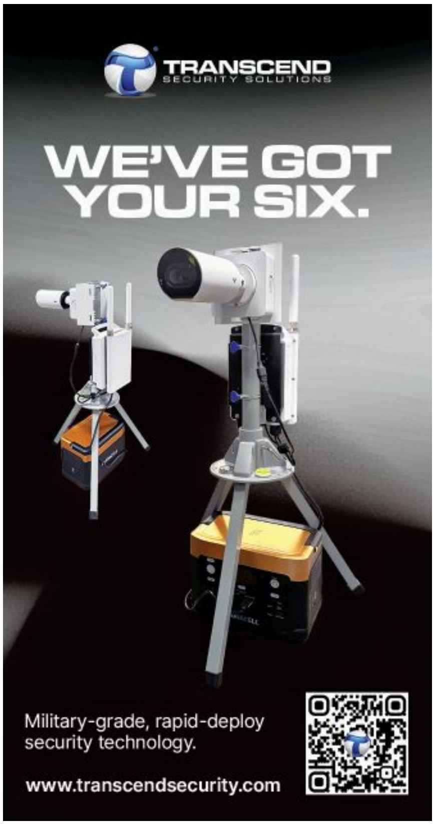
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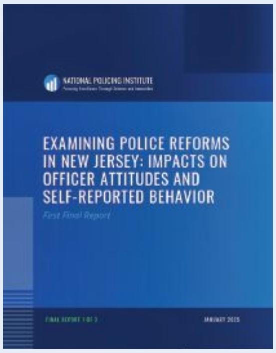
Swatting Awareness for Law Enforcement

In collaboration with the FBI, the FPS, the Major County Sheriffs of America, and numerous state and local law enforcement partners, the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE) has developed a series of swatting awareness videos specifically for law enforcement.

Swatting is a dangerous and malicious act in which individuals place false emergency calls to police or emergency services, falsely reporting an active, severe crisis at a specific location. These incidents are increasingly straining emergency services and helplines, as they are designed to provoke an overwhelming law enforcement response.

This video series aims to raise awareness about the growing threat of swatting and to provide practical strategies and resources for addressing it. The first video in the series is now available to law enforcement agencies through OSLLE, with additional videos to be released upon completion. Interested law enforcement personnel are encouraged to contact OSLLE via E-mail for access at **OSLLE@hq.dhs.gov**

How New Jersey's New Use-of-Force Policies Are Impacting Officer Training and Public Safety



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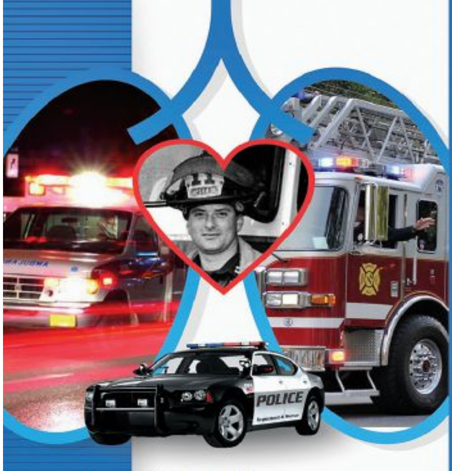
In 2021, New Jersey implemented new use-of-force policies, including mandatory training in de-escalation and peer intervention. But, how have these initiatives impacted officers and their day-to-day policing practices?

The National Policing Institute conducted a multi-year evaluation, surveying over 31,000 officers who completed Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) and Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training to assess the impact.

This research offers a rare look into how officers perceive these training efforts and what it means for public safety. Whether you're a law enforcement leader, policymaker or researcher, the data offers valuable direction for future initiatives.

From this extensive work, NPI has already created a suite of resources for the field, including the full report, executive summary and a how-to guide for summarizing data for the public. Additionally, a journal article about these findings was published. But, we aren't done. More resources which will enhance the impact of the use-of-force and de-escalation training are coming.

To access these resources, visit **https://tinyurl.com/mrymskpk**



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE REINVENTED:

The Growing Role of Drones as First Responders

EUGENE NIELSEN

The primary advantage of the DFR model is rapid situational awareness, allowing officers to assess threats, make informed tactical decisions, and allocate resources more effectively—often before the first unit arrives on scene.

The concept of Drone as a First Responder (DFR) is rapidly gaining traction in the United States, with companies like Skydio, BRINC, Aerodome, and Flock Safety leading the charge. This technology promises to revolutionize the way law enforcement agencies respond to emergencies, offering faster response times, enhanced situational awareness, and improved officer safety.

Looking forward, many anticipate that this technology will play a key role in shaping the future of public safety.

DFR technology involves deploying drones to the scene of an incident before human responders arrive. These response drones can deliver real-time video, thermal imaging and vital data to assist officers in evaluating situations and making well-informed decisions. By arriving on the scene quickly, drones can help law enforcement agencies respond more effectively to a wide range of emergencies, from active shooter situations to natural disasters.

The use of drones as first responders is not just about reaction time; it's also about enhancing the safety of officers and the public. Drones can be used to survey dangerous areas, identify potential threats and provide valuable intelligence without putting officers in harm's way. This can be particularly useful in situations where there is a risk of violence or hazardous conditions.

In addition to improving response times and safety, DFR technology can also enhance situational awareness. By providing a bird's-eye view of the scene, drones can help officers gain a better understanding of the layout and dynamics of an incident. This can be crucial in complex situations when traditional ground-based perspectives may be limited.

Overall, the potential of DFR technology to transform law enforcement operations is immense. As this technology continues to evolve and become more widely adopted, it is likely to play an increasingly important role in enhancing public safety and improving the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies.

Skydio

Skydio offers advanced drone solutions designed to enhance public safety operations. Skydio's DFR programs are built to provide real-time situational awareness, faster response times and improved officer safety. Here are some key features of Skydio's DFR technology:

- **Skydio X10:** Equipped with high-tech sensors and optics, the Skydio X10 provides responding officers with objective reality on the ground. It features NightSense for complete darkness visibility, thermal imaging capability and 5G connectivity for extended range missions.
- **Dock for X10:** This dock-based system allows X10 drones to be strategically positioned and launched remotely or autonomously within 20 seconds. This ensures rapid deployment and situational awareness before anyone arrives on-site.
- **DFR Command:** Skydio's software solution for DFR programs, DFR Command, enables seamless operation and growth of drone and dock programs from any remote location. It integrates with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and supports evidence uploads.
- **Integration with Axon:** Skydio solutions come pre-integrated with the Axon product family, utilized by agencies across the country.

Skydio's DFR technology has been

successfully implemented by various public safety agencies, providing critical support in incidents such as firefighting, search and rescue and crime response. (**skydio.com**)

BRINC

BRINC is another leading company in the DFR sector, offering comprehensive drone solutions tailored for public safety operations. BRINC's DFR technology focuses on providing immediate on-scene information, enhancing officer safety and reducing the use of force. Key features of BRINC's DFR technology include:

- **BRINC Responder Drone:** Designed specifically for 911 response, the BRINC Responder Drone is equipped with powerful cameras, thermal imaging and integrated cellular for remote operation. It can deliver lifesaving payloads such as NARCAN®, AEDs and EPIPEN®s.

Drones are capable of rapidly delivering lifesaving medical supplies such as NAR-CAN®, AEDs and EPIPEN®s to emergency scenes, offering crucial support when every second counts.

- **Responder Station:** This system supports the deployment and teleoperation of drones, integrating with existing public safety systems such as CAD, RTCC and gunshot detection.
- **Emergency Payload Delivery:** BRINC drones can deliver lifesaving supplies to emergency scenes in seconds, providing critical support in situations such as traffic accidents, fires and public disturbances.
- **End-to-End Integration:** BRINC offers a fully integrated ecosystem of hardware, software and services, ensuring seamless operation and support for public safety agencies.

BRINC's DFR technology has been adopted by over 600 public safety agencies across the United States, demonstrating its effectiveness in enhancing response times and situational awareness. (**brincdrones.com**)

Aerodome

Aerodome is another company specializing in DFR solutions. Aerodome's DFR technology is designed to provide a fully automated and remote air support operating system which, according to the company, reduces the need for patrol officers to respond to calls by 15 percent while offering 80 percent faster response times. The company's advanced DFR system is fully remote and automated, multi-station and multi-drone, allowing agencies to achieve an

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE REINVENTED: THE GROWING ROLE OF DRONES AS FIRST RESPONDERS

Continued from page 63

average 86 second response time to 911 calls, compared to the average seven to eight minutes of traditional response measures.

Aerodome's DFR solution includes:

- **Fully Remote Operations:** Aerodome drone stations rapidly swap batteries between flight missions, allowing for minimal downtime with no need for human intervention. Drones can take off, fly to locations, be replaced mid-flight, return home, and precision land on drone stations.
- **Multi-station, Multi-drone System:** Strategically placed drone stations throughout an area provide full air support coverage for large jurisdictions. Drones act intelligently within a mesh network, allowing for multiple drone flights at once without the risk of collision.
- **Integrated Software:** Aerodome's software integrates seamlessly with CAD, pre-CAD 911 data, ALPR, and gunshot detection systems for swift emergency responses. Enhanced with RTCC and video streaming capabilities, it supports real-time, collaborative decision-making.
- **Mobile Operations:** With Aerodome's mobile suite, drones can be launched from any corner of the globe, 24/7, using only a tablet or mobile phone.
- **Automated Reporting:** Flight logs and mission reports are auto-generated at the end of every flight, meeting all FAA and internal agency reporting requirements.
- **Real-time Collaborative Streaming:** 1080p video streaming at extremely low latencies across unlimited devices, including call-for-service data, location data and flight telemetry data for maximum context.

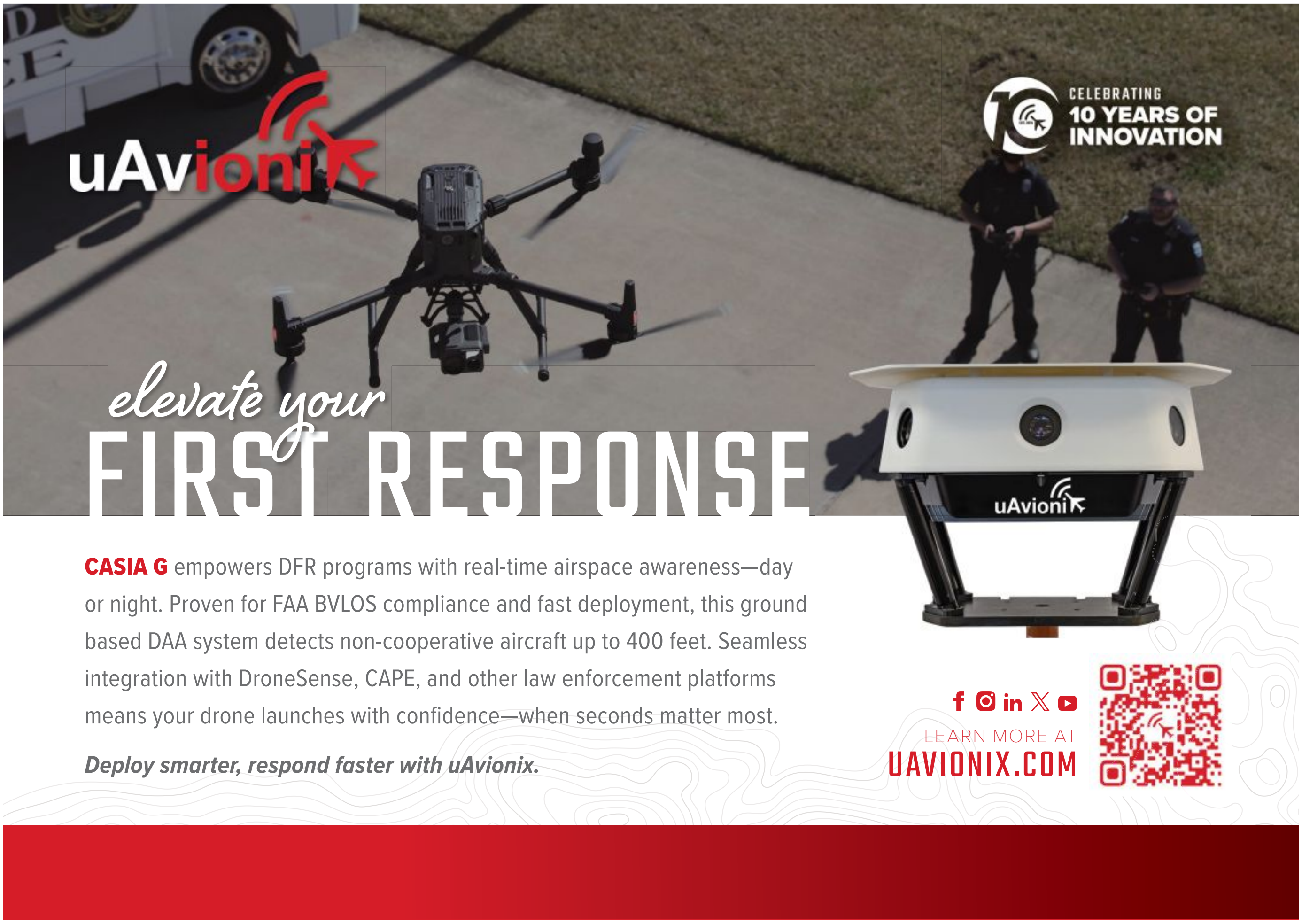
Following Flock Safety's acquisition of Aerodome late last year, the company has integrated Aerodome's DFR technology into its suite of rapid response solutions. This strategic move brings Aerodome's advanced drone and remote piloting software under the Flock Safety umbrella. (**aerodome.com**)

Flock Safety

Flock Safety recently unveiled a groundbreaking advancement: drones which automatically launch the moment a 911 call is received. Known as Flock911 for Aerodome, it's the first system in the US which enables police drones to respond to live 911 calls – even before the call is officially logged into dispatch.

Flock Safety's Drone as First Responder (DFR) solution offers several standout features:

- **Fast Response Time:** Drones can be launched and arrive at emergency scenes within 85 to 90 seconds, delivering rapid situational awareness to first responders.
- **Smart Drone Docking Stations:** Each drone is stored in an automated, battery swapping dock strategi-



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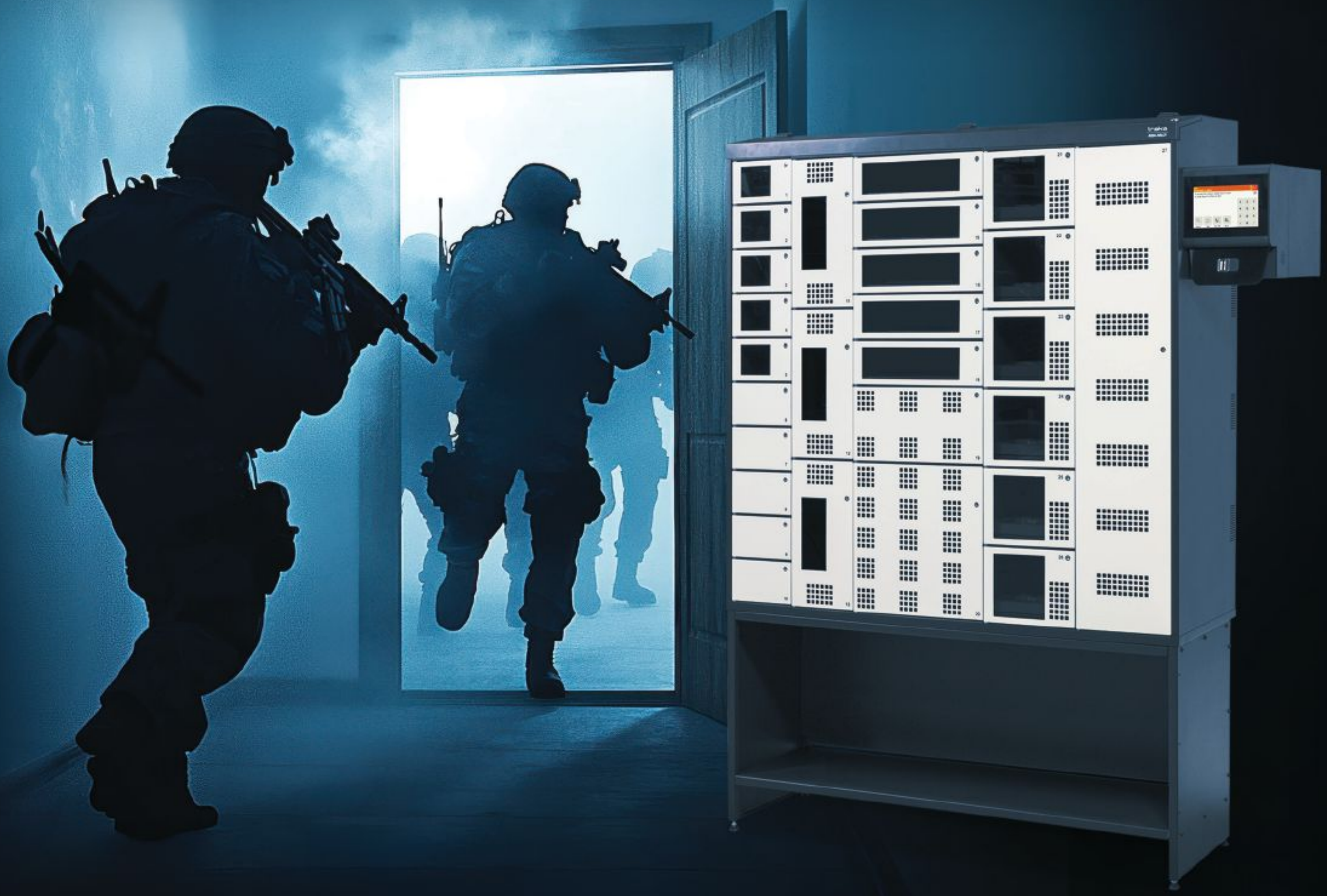

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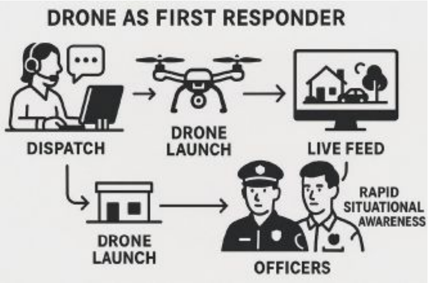
EMERGENCY RESPONSE REINVENTED: THE GROWING ROLE OF DRONES AS FIRST RESPONDERS

Continued from page 64

cally located to ensure deployment readiness within a four mile radius.

- **Seamless Integration with Surveillance Tools:** The DFR system operates alongside Flock's existing network of license plate readers and video cameras, enhancing capabilities to track stolen vehicles, locate missing persons and identify individuals of interest.
- **Live Intelligence Streaming:** Real-time video and vital data are transmitted directly from the drones, empowering officers to quickly evaluate situations and make informed decisions.
- **Automated Crime-Response Coordination:** In collaboration with Aerodome, Flock integrates drone response into its broader crime-solving ecosystem, allowing drones to be automatically dispatched in response to specific alerts like AMBER notifications or stolen vehicle detections.



A simplified illustration of how a DFR system works, from dispatch to live feed and officer coordination

Legislative Efforts

In addition to private investment, legislative efforts are underway to bolster the US drone industry. The Drones for First Responders Act, introduced by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, aims to establish a grant program to help first responders purchase secure drones. This legislation is expected to increase the competitiveness of US drone manufacturers and enhance national security.

The Drones for First Responders Act proposes implementing a new tariff on drones manufactured in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and using the tariff revenue to fund the grant program. The bill highlights the strategic importance of having secure unmanned aircraft manufactured in the United States or by allied countries, given the national security risks which some associate with PRC-made drones. By providing financial support to first responders, the legislation aims to facilitate the transition to secure, domestically produced drones and reduce reliance on foreign technology.

Overall, the combination of private investment and legislative support is driving the growth and adoption of DFR technology. With significant funding opportunities and a focus on enhancing national security, the future of DFR technology looks promising for law enforcement agencies across the United States.

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Potential Liabilities

While DFR technology offers numerous benefits, it also presents potential liabilities which law enforcement agencies must consider. One of the primary concerns is the legal implications of using drones for surveillance and data collection. Agencies must navigate complex regulations and ensure compliance with privacy laws to avoid legal challenges.

Legal Implications

The use of drones for surveillance and data collection raises significant privacy concerns. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that their drone operations comply with federal, state and local privacy laws. This includes obtaining necessary warrants for surveillance activities and ensuring that data collected by drones is stored and used in accordance with legal requirements. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in legal challenges and damage to public trust.

FAA Regulations

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has introduced new waivers and guidelines to expand the capabilities of public safety agencies using drones. These regulations include requirements for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations and the use of specific safety features, such as prop guards, anti-collision lights and ADS-B in receivers. BVLOS operations allow drones to fly beyond the visual range of the operator which can significantly enhance their utility in emergency response situations. However, these operations also come with increased risks and regulatory requirements.

To mitigate these risks, the FAA requires agencies to implement specific safety measures, such as using prop guards to prevent injuries, anti-collision lights to enhance visibility and ADS-B in receivers to detect and avoid other aircraft. Agencies must adhere to these guidelines to ensure safe operations and minimize the risk of accidents.

The Greenville (NC) Police Department's Technology Officer A.F. Frasure demonstrates the capabilities of their DJI Matrice drone.

Civil Lawsuits

Another potential liability is the risk of civil lawsuits arising from drone operations. Law enforcement agencies must establish clear policies and procedures for drone use, including guidelines for data retention, search and seizure, and the use of vision enhancement technology. These policies should outline the

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    - Integration with CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) systems for automatic deployment.
2. **Real-time HD Video Streaming**
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Continued from page 67

circumstances under which drones can be used, the types of data which can be collected, and the procedures for storing and accessing this data.

By addressing these legal issues proactively, agencies can minimize the risk of litigation and build public trust in their DFR programs. Clear and transparent policies can help reassure the public that drones are being used responsibly and in accordance with the law.

Building Public Trust

Building public trust is crucial for the successful implementation of DFR technology. Law enforcement agencies must engage with the community and provide clear information about how drones will be used and the measures in place to protect privacy and ensure safety. Public outreach and education can help address concerns and build support for DFR programs.

In conclusion, while DFR technology offers significant benefits, law enforcement agencies must carefully navigate the legal landscape and address potential liabilities to ensure the successful implementation of their programs. By doing so, they can harness the full potential of this innovative technology to enhance public safety and save lives.

Final Thoughts

DFR technology holds immense potential for law enforcement agencies, offering faster response times, enhanced situational awareness, and improved officer safety. With significant funding opportunities and legislative support, the adoption of DFR technology is poised to grow. However, agencies must carefully navigate the legal landscape and address potential liabilities to ensure the successful implementation of DFR programs. By doing so, they can harness the full potential of this innovative technology to enhance public safety and save lives. **P&SN**

Eugene Nielsen is the owner and operator of a firm which provides private intelligence, security consulting and training services. He has a background in law enforcement and a BA degree from the University of California. He has written over 1,500 articles which have been published in various national and international journals and magazines. He was a member of SWAT Magazine*'s contributing staff for more than 20 years.*

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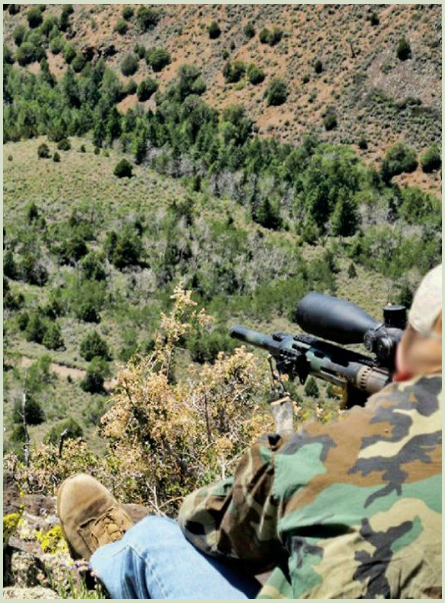
Shooting Competition to Be Held in Utah



The Mountain Shooting Center, in conjunction with the Army Sniper Association and the Marine Scout Sniper Heritage Foundations, will be presenting the 2025 King of the Mountain Shooting Competition July 18-20, 2025.

The Competition will be held at the Mountain Shooting Center (MSC), a high altitude (9300 feet above sea level), long-range shooting complex designed for training advanced shooters. Located on 200 square miles of mountainous property, it is near Antimony, Utah.

The Competition will take place at high altitudes (8,000-10,000 feet above sea level) with steep angles, multi-layer winds and a variety of optical principles. Competitors will engage targets on the Known Distance Range (KDR), located at 9400' above sea level, which is flat with some micro-terrain (slopes, ridges, etc.). It is 1700 meters long.

Next, the competitors will move to the mid canyon area where they will engage with still silhouette targets (one meter tall), as well as .39 meter steel dog targets. They will shoot flat and on angles; distances will vary up to, and beyond, one mile.

On Day 2, the competitors will move to the next firing point on foot and will engage additional targets from the north and south ridge lines, shooting down and across the canyon; all shooting positions are improvised.

For more information, visit **mountainshootingcenter.com**

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Page #	Advertiser	Web Site
54	A Vision Detection Systems, LLC	visiondetectionsystems.com
8	Accu-Shot	accu-shot.com
54	Action Bullet Resistant, Inc.	actionbullet.com
54	All City Management Services, Inc.	thecrossingguardcompany.com
29	All Traffic Solutions	alltrafficsolutions.com
54	AmChar Wholesale, Inc	amchar.com
71	AmChar Wholesale, Inc	amchar.com
54	Axis Communications	axis.com
26	Black Hills Ammunition, Inc.	black-hills.com
3	BlueRidge Armor, LLC	blueridgearmor.com
54	Buzz Seating, Inc.	buzzseating.com
29	CM3 Building Solutions, Inc.	cm3inc.com
55	Cardio Pulmonary Diagnostic	cardiopulmonarydiagnostic.com
61	Cardio Pulmonary Diagnostic	cardiopulmonarydiagnostic.com
9	Century Arms, Inc	centuryarms.com
14	ChamberSnake	chambersnake.com
32	Cognitec Systems Corp.	cognitec.com
55	Cognitec Systems Corp.	cognitec.com
55	Drugloo International USA, LLC	drugloo-international.com
8	Earphone Connection	earphoneconnect.com
13	Elite Vehicle Solutions	elitevehicle.com
55	Elite Vehicle Solutions	elitevehicle.com
36	eMazzanti Technologies	emazzanti.net
55	eMazzanti Technologies	emazzanti.net
55	Ericsson Enterprise Solutions, Inc.	ericsson.com
27	Fairleigh Dickinson University	fdu.edu
56	Fairleigh Dickinson University	fdu.edu
28	Fire Hooks Unlimited, Inc.	firehooksunlimited.net
56	GC Shield	gc-shield.com
Cover 2	GALLS	galls.com
56	GALLS	galls.com
69	Golight, Inc.	golight.com
56	Graphic Designs International LLC	gdigraphics.com
20-21	Gun Shop, The and T4E/The Gun Shop	policeammo.com
56	Guns Shop, The	policeammo.com
38-39	H.L. Dalis, Inc.	hldalis.com
45	H.L. Dalis, Inc.	hldalis.com
56	H.L. Dalis, Inc.	hldalis.com
57	H.L. Dalis, Inc.	hldalis.com
57	HSC – High Security Cuffs	highsecuritycuffs.com
57	Hague's LLC	
7	Henry Repeating Arms	henryusa.com/lawenforcement
57	Henry Repeating Arms	henryusa.com/lawenforcement
Cover 4	i-PRO Americas Inc	i-pro.com
57	Info-Cop by GTBM, Inc.	info-cop.com
40	JAMAR Technologies, Inc.	jamartech.com
57	Jotto Desk	jottopublicsafety.com
Cover 3	Jotto Desk	jottopublicsafety.gojotto.com/zrt-psn3
58	KeyTrak, Inc.	keytrak.com/pse
58	LDV, Inc	ldvusa.com
66	LDV, Inc	ldvusa.com
58	Leonardo	leonardocompany-us.com/lpr
67	Liberty Art Works, Inc.	libertyartworks.com
47	MILO Range	milovr.com
58	NJSTART	njstart.info
37	NRA Community Engagement Div.	eddieeagle.nra.org
72	NRA Community Engagement Div.	rtbav.nra.org
58	Nielsen Fleet, Inc.	nielsenfleet.com
63	Nielsen Fleet, Inc.	nielsenfleet.com
58	NightRide Thermal, LLC	getnightride.com
59	Ocean Computer Group, Inc.	oceancomputer.com
33	Patrolfinder	transfinder.com/solutions/patrolfinder
59	Patrolfinder	transfinder.com/solutions/patrolfinder
69	Pearce Grip, Inc.	pearcegrip.com
59	Peregrine Technologies	peregrine.io
48	Police Security Expo 2025	police-security.com
34	Printek, LLC	printek.com
59	Rev Up Your Wealth & Co.	dawnobrien.com
59	Ruger	ruger.com
46	Sentinel Camera Systems, LLC	sentinelcamerasystems.com
5	Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc.	setina.com
59	Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc.	setina.com
68	Sirchie	sirchie.com
42	Sniper Tools Design Co., LLC	snipertools.com
36	Southern Police Equipment Co., Inc.	southernpoliceequipment.com
31	Special Needs Populations	https://tinyurl.com/yy5vs35b
25	Springfield Armory	springfield-armory.com
18	Steck Manufacturing	steckmfg.com
43	Stratton Hats	strattonhats.com
19	Streamlight, Inc.	streamlight.com/tlr-1hlx
60	Streamlight, Inc.	streamlight.com
28	Strong Leather Co.	strongbadgecase.com
60	TeliApp	teliapp.com
60	Traka ASSA ABLOY	traka.com
65	Traka ASSA ABLOY	traka.com
60	Transcend Security Solutions	transcendsecurity.com
70	Tufloc	tufloc.com
64	uAvionix	uavionix.com
60	V-COMM, LLC	v-commeng.com
60	Vision Detection Systems, LLC	visiondetectionsystems.com
17	WaterShed, LLC	wearewatershed.com
41	WaterShed, LLC	wearewatershed.com
46	Zero Bullet Co., Inc.	zerobullets.com

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JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

A real Cokehead...

Colombian police arrested a 40-year-old man attempting to smuggle cocaine under a carefully attached toupée. He was detained at Cartagena's airport before boarding a flight to Amsterdam. A scanner revealed 220 grams of cocaine hidden beneath his "narco wig," with an estimated street value of 10,000 euros. A police video showed an officer removing the wig, uncovering about a dozen drug packets. Authorities confirmed the suspect had two prior drug trafficking convictions. (*Cut and blow dry taken to the next level…*)

It was no laughing matter… Two men (ages 35 and 28) from Ohio and Arizona were arrested after Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPD) officers found 46 cans of nitrous oxide in their vehicle. The investigation began when officers discovered a downtown flyer advertising free nitrous oxide delivery. MNPD units set up an online deal, leading to the men's arrest in downtown Nashville. Police seized over 51,000 grams of nitrous oxide, drug paraphernalia, marijuana, and cash. Both were charged with felony sale or delivery of inhalants and misdemeanor drug paraphernalia, with one also facing a misdemeanor drug possession charge. (*Nashville's newest DoorDash®!*)

Your "Magic Mike" audition failed… It was a routine day at Indianapolis International Airport until a man at the TSA checkpoint triggered an alarm requiring further screening. When the officer began a pat-down, the man called him a "freak" four times. Then, things got even stranger. Asked to remove his belt, he broke into an impromptu striptease, squatting and shaking his butt at security staff. Police were summoned and, upon their arrival, the man asked, "What do you want to see?" before dropping his pants and underwear, exposing himself to everyone in the airport. As a final insult, he shoved his underwear in the TSA officer's face before tossing it toward police. His free strip show ended with an arrest and, given his prior criminal history, he was sentenced to 33 months in jail. (*Some folks are just "plane idiots."*)

I see why he broke up with her!... If you plan to vandalize your ex's car, it's wise to know the make and model first. An 18-year-old woman in Deltona, Florida, learned this the hard way when she mistakenly trashed the wrong vehicle with eggs and yellow paint. By the time police responded to a 911 call about a "young woman spray painting a vehicle," she had caused $5,000 in damages, scrawling her ex's name and "Devil" on an innocent coupe. Assisted by a 16-year-old friend, she admitted she was furious over a $700 debt. She was charged with criminal mischief (a felony due to the damage), contributing to the delinquency of a minor, illegal alcohol possession, and DUI. Her underage accomplice – found covered in yellow paint – was cited for marijuana possession. (*Doesn't she know the price of eggs these days?*)

Would you trust these people around your car?... A Michigan judge is replacing stolen goods with sponges by ordering shoplifters to wash cars in a Walmart parking lot this spring. He hopes the unique community service deters theft and benefits shoppers who face higher prices or store closures due to crime. The free car washes are part of his "Walmart wash" sentences for misdemeanor shoplifting at a Grand Blanc Township store near Detroit. Walmart supports the initiative, providing water and supplies. Shocked by widespread retail theft, the judge noted 48 such cases in one day. Believing public scrubbing will be humiliating, he plans to join offenders in washing cars. (Attention shoppers: *Today's blue light special is…*)

So, drug dealers have elephants as clients these days?... A 29-year-old Utah man faces federal charges for allegedly attempting to obtain carfentanil, a drug used to tranquilize elephants. According to the DEA, carfentanil is 10,000 times stronger than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, posing a serious threat as its availability increases. The DEA has reportedly identified carfentanil as "crazy dangerous." The Provo suspect allegedly tried to acquire about 20 grams of the drug in a package intercepted by US Customs at the Los Angeles International Airport. He had signed up for tracking updates on the shipment. Prosecutors claim he documented criminal activity in a notebook, including drug purchases, prices and tracking numbers related to carfentanil. He has been charged in a Utah federal court with attempted possession with intent to distribute. (*I guess that he made a "jumbo-sized mistake."*)

Wait until his cousin C-3PO hears about this… Employees at a California Pho restaurant (Vietnamese cuisine) stopped a would-be thief from stealing their $18,000 robot server/coworker as he awkwardly struggled to load it into his car. The man had entered the restaurant 20 minutes before opening, asking to use the restroom. Instead, he doubled back, attempted to lift one of the three mechanical robot servers and waddled outside under its weight. An employee tried to intervene as he dragged the bot to his car and heaved it into the trunk. Just ten seconds later, other employees emerged, wrestled the robot away and called the police. The $18,000 robot, requiring specialized programming, would have been useless to the thief. ("*The Great Pho-bot Heist*")

A dumb crook should never try to steal a smart car… A man in Los Angeles apparently didn't realize that you can't carjack a driverless vehicle. The city has several autonomous Waymo robotaxis roaming the streets and this would-be carjacker hopped into one, attempting to take control. However, remote technicians immediately disabled the car, leaving him stuck and confused. Whether he was plotting a high-tech assault on the system or simply lost in thought, he remained inside until police arrived in riot gear. He was then removed and arrested. (*It's a SELF-DRIVING vehicle, not a thief-driving vehicle.*) **P&SN**

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